## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION

**SUBJECT: MEYER LANSKY** 

FILE NUMBER: 92-2831 SECTION 16



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UNITED STATES Q VERNMENT lemorandum

DIRECTOR, FBI (92-2831)

7-17-70

LEGAT, MEXICO (92-93) (RUC)

SUBJECT: MEYER LANSKY, aka

Remylet 5-26-70.

Mr. REY HATCH, U.S. Customs, American Embassy, Mexico City, advised 7-16-70 that he had gone to Acapulco, Mexico, conduct further investigation concerning Subject and his activities in that city, but that he had not succeeded in obtaining any further pertinent information. He noted that apparently based on the previous investigative activities by American investigators in Mexico, some of the local Mexican police apparently had approached personnel in the various; hotels involved with a view toward extorting money from them for harboring criminals, and therefore contacts in these hotel have not been disposed toward further cooperation. He was not able to obtain phone calls attributed to the Subject, although this information had been promised to him.

In addition, Mexican Immigration had agreed to conduct records checks to determine how Subject arrived Mexico, but this has also proved fruitless.

It is noted that a number of telephone numbers were found on Subject's person on his arrest on arrival in Miami; and Customs apparently is conducting investigation concerning these numbers.

Bureau

(1 - Liaison Section)

(2 - Miami, 92-102) - to mm, 7-29-70 by 07, ARW dec

1 - Mexico City

RSC:wr

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EX 106

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Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan



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UNITED STATES

VERNMENT

### Memorandum

TO

FROM

DIRECTOR, FBI (92-2831)

DATE: 8/10/70

(ATTN: CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE AND ORGANIZED CRIME SECTION)

MAC, MIAMI (92-102) (P)

SUBJECT:

MEYER LANSKY, aka

M

Enclosed for the Bureau is original and five copies of LHM, suitable for dissemination to Assistant Attorney General WILL WILSON regarding the subject's arrest on narcotics charges.

On August 5, 1970, Departmental Attorney DOUGALD MC MILLAN telephonically advised that he has been requested by DUKE DEWARE to obtain the facts surrounding MEYER LANSKY's recent arrest and the subsequent dismissal of the case. MC MILLAN stated that DEWARE is writing a paper at the request of Assistant Attorney General WILLIAM WILSON. MC MILLAN stated that this summary should be forwarded to for appropriate transmittal to

61C

WILSON.

Bureau (Encs 6) FAMIOSURE

Miami

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REC-53

5 AUG 11 1970

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By-

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan



In Reply, Please Refer to File No. 92-102

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Miami, Florida August 10, 1970

### RE: MEYER LANSKY ANTI-RACKETEERING

MEYER LANSKY was searched by United States
Customs Agents after disembarking from Aeronaves de
Mexico (AMSA) Flight 410 after its arrival at Miami
International Airport from Acapulco, Mexico on March
4, 1970. Examination of a briefcase being carried by
LANSKY was made by Customs Port Investigator
The discovered an unlabeled plastic vial containing 154 tablets.

LANSKY stated that the tablets were donnatal and had been prescribed by his doctor. LANSKY was released but the vial of tablets was held by Customs.

Laboratory analysis by United States Customs Laboratory confirmed that the tablets were donnatal.



LANSKY was arrested March 27, 1970, by Florida Department of Law Enforcement Agents, charging him with a felony which has a maximum penalty of two years, \$1,000 fine or both and a misdemeanor, maximum penalty six months and or \$500 fine.

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ENCLOSURE 92-283/- 1161

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RE: MEYER LANSKY

On June 18, 1970, Criminal Court Judge CARLING STEADMAN directed a verdict of acquittal for LANSKY stating that "the state has failed to prove the material allegations and this is fatal to the prosecution". STEADMAN said "do we have jurisdiction over the Port Custom's Office?"

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Airtel

**EX-116** 

TO: SAC, Miami (92-102)

83 FROM: Director, FBI (92-2831) //69

MEYER LANSKY, aka AR

ReMMlet 8/10/70 and LHM enclosed therewith.

In last paragraph of page one of LHM it is noted that Lansky was arrested and charged with a felony and a misdemeanor. No information is included to show specifically the nature of the charges.

In paragraph one on page two it is noted that Lansky was aquitted on a directed verdict because "the State has failed to prove the material allegations, etc. The material allegations, etc., are not set forth.

Specific details concerning the charges against tanky and the material allegations involved complemented by any additional information pertaining to the Court's decision should be included in the LHM. Accordingly prepare appropriate amended pages setting forth this information and somit them to reach Bureau promptly.

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In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Miami, Florida August 18, 1970

Re: MEYER LANSKY
ANTI-RACKETEERING

Specific details concerning the charges against MEYER LANSKY and the material allegations involved complemented by additional information pertaining to Judge CARLING STEDMAN'S decision on June 18, 1970, are as follows:

State of Florida charged MEYER LANSKY with violation Section 404.02, a Florida statute which stated that a barbiturate and/or a central nervous system stimulant must be delivered by a pharmacist and labeled by such an individual. State of Florida charged that LANSKY was in violation of this statute inamuch as he had 154 tablets of Donnatal which the State also alleged qualified as a barbiturate and central nervous system stimulant.

LANSKY was also charged with a misdemeanor in violation of Section 500.151 which charged LANSKY with possession of a habit-forming, toxic, harmful or new drug without a prescription.

Judge STEDMAN without hearing testimony of the defense questioned the State of Florida's jurisdiction on federal property and therefore directed a verdict of acquittal for MEYER LANSKY. The State of Florida has no recourse in this decision. Judge STEDMAN alleged "the State has failed to prove the material allegations and this is fatal to the prosecution." STEDMAN told the jury in ordering the verdict that the defense need not present its case. The defense lawyer for MEYER LANSKY, JOSEPH VARON, had maintained during a motion for a directed verdict earlier that the State could not prosecute LANSKY for possession of the drug (Donnatal) because it was discovered in a search conducted on federal property, the United States Customs enclosure at Miami International Airport. Judge STEDMAN then asked no one in particular "Do we have jurisdiction over the Port Customs Office? I realize it is within the geographical confines of Dade County, Florida, but isn't it under lease to the federal government? I am seriously wondering if we have jurisdiction over such an offense,

> 92-2831-1175 ENGLOSURE

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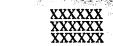
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Re: MEYER LANSKY

In offenses committed in the Everglades National Park and the Miccosukkee Nation we don't, but it is in Dade County, but do we have jurisdiction of this?"

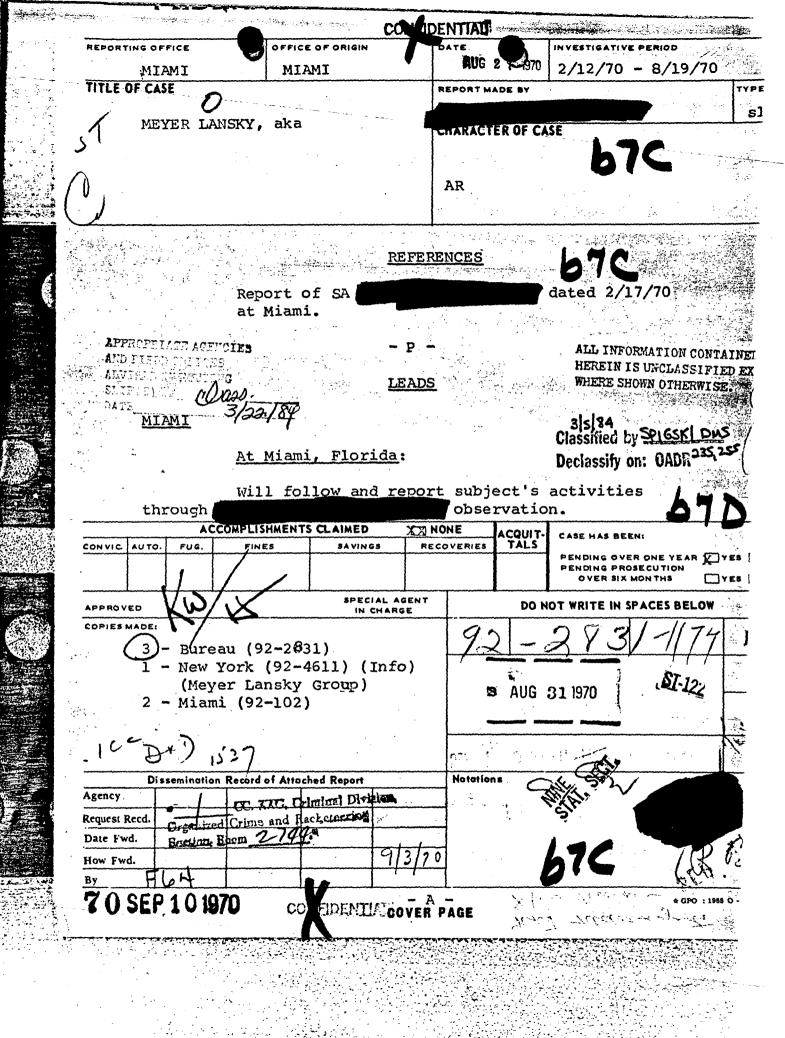
Judge STEDMAN apparently did not question the State's specific charges or the material allegations against LANSKY.

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MM 92-102

#### ADMINISTRATIVE

It is noted that the investigative period for this report is lengthy, however it has been the kept in a pending status.

It is also noted that the investigative period pre-dates that of the previous report to include information not available at the time of the last report.

An information copy of this report is being designated for New York as they are office of origin in the case entitled, "MEYER LANSKY GROUP".







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MM 92-102



On March 4, 1970, the subject arrived in Miami aboard Aeronaves de Mexico Flight number 410 from Acapulco, Mexico. The subject was subjected to customs search during which time a Customs Agent seized 154 tablets believed to be some type of barbiturates, for which the subject did not have a prescription.

The subject had several other medications however, he had prescriptions for these. The Federal Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs (FBNDD) Agent and the United States Departmental Attorney were immediately advised and the tablets were analyzed to determine what type of medication was in the clear plastic vials.

After a thorough sesearch by all agencies it was determined that the tablets were donnatal and it was a possible violation of the Florida State Statute.

All the information was submitted to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, who advised they would attempt to obtain a warrant for the subject if he was in violation of any State Statutes.



MM 92-102

On March 27, 1970, the subject was arrested by Agents of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and charged with a felony and misdemeanor and bond, was set at \$50,000. Following arrests, he was afforded extensive news media coverage.

Since the arrest of LANSKY there have been many rumors eminating from local newsmen

of the Information of the Bureau, a copy of the Florida Barbiturate Law is being set forth and the Section 404.02 should be noted as the one which LANSKY apparently violated.



FLORIDA BARBITURATE LAW

#### Ch. 404

#### CHAPTER 404

#### FLORIDA BARBITURATE LAW

404.01 Definitions. 404.02 Prohibited acts. Exemptions, general. 404.03 404.04 Exemptions, additional. 404.05 Records. 404.06 Inspection.

404.07 Contraband. 404.08 Seizure and forfciture of vessel, vehicle, or aircraft illegally used.

404.01 Definitions.—For the purposes of

this chapter:

(1) The words "barbiturate" or "barbiturates" mean each of the salts and derivatives of barbituric acid, also known as "malonyl urea," and derivatives, compounds, mixtures or preparations thereof; and "barbiturate" or "barbiturates" shall include hypnotic and somnifacient drugs, whether or not derivatives of barbituric acid, except that this law shall not apply to narcotics, as now or hereafter defined by the legislature of Florida, or bromides.
(2) The words "central nervous system

stimulant" or "central nervous system stimulants" means amphetamine, desoxyephedrine (methamphetamine), mephentermine, pipradol, phenmetrazine, methylphenidylacetate or any of the salts of any of the foregoing.

(3) The word "delivery" means selling, dis-

pensing, giving away, leaving with, or supplying in any other manner.

(4) The word "patient" means, as the case

may be:

(a) The individual medically requiring a barbiturate or a central nervous system stimulant, for whom a barbiturate or central nervous system stimulant is prescribed, or to whom a barbiturate or a central nervous system stimulant is administered; or

The owner or the agent of the owner of an animal medically requiring a barbiturate or a central nervous system stimulant, for which barbiturate or a central nervous system stimulant is prescribed, or to which a barbiturate or a central nervous system stimulant is administered.

(5) The word "person" includes individual. corporation, partnership, and association.

(6) The word "practitioner" means a person authorized by law to practice medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, or naturopathic physicians who have been actively practicing in and licensed by the state for a period of at least fifteen years prior to October 1, 1957.

The word "pharmacist" means a person (7)authorized by law to practice pharmacy in this

state.

The word "prescription" means an order written or signed or transmitted by word of mouth, telephone or telegraph or other means of communication issued in good faith in the course of professional practice only, by a practitioner to a pharmacist for a barbiturate or

404.00 Procedure to have vessel, vehicle, or air craft forfelted or sold.

Rights of mortgagee or vendor.

404.11 Injunctions.

Rules and regulations. 404.12

Exceptions and exemptions not required to be negatived. 404.13

Notice of conviction to be sent to licensing 404.14 board or officer.

404.15 Penaltics.

central nervous system stimulant for a particular patient, which specifies the date of its issue, the name and address of such practitioner, the name and address of the patient (and, if such barbiturate or central nervous system stimulant is prescribed for an animal, the species of such animal), the name and quantity of the barbiturate or central nervous system stimulant prescribed, the directions for the use of such drug, and the record so made shall constitute the original prescription to be filled

and preserved by the pharmacist.
(9) The word "manufacturer" means a person who manufactures barbiturates and central nervous system stimulants, and includes persons who prepare such drugs in dosage forms by mixing, compounding, encapsulating, entableting, packaging, or other process, but does not include a pharmacist who merely packages, prepares or compounds drugs to fill prescriptions received, or to be received by him

from practitioner.

(10) The word "wholesaler" means a person engaged in the business of distributing barbiturates and central nervous system stimulants to persons included in any of the classes named in §404.04(2)(a)-(f).

Bistory .-- Comp. \$1, ch. 57-384.

404.02 Prohibited acts.—The following shall be unlawful:

(1) The delivering or causing to be delivered any barbiturate or central nervous system stimulant, except as provided in §404.04, unless

(a) Such barbiturate or central nervous system stimulant is delivered by a pharmacist in good faith, upon a prescription, or an authorized refill thereof, as hereinafter provided, and there is affixed to the original container in which such drug is delivered a label bearing:

The name and address of the establishment from which such drug was delivered;

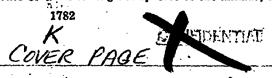
The date on which the prescription for

such drug was filled; The number of such prescription as filed in the prescription files of the pharmacist who filled such prescription;

4. The name of the pharmacist and his license number:

The name of the practitioner who prescribed such drug;

6. The name of the patient, and if such drug was prescribed for an animal a statement showing the species of the animal; and



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7. The directions for the use of the drug as contained in the prescription; or

(b) Such barbiturate or central nervous system stimulant is delivered or administered by a practitioner in good faith and in the course of professional practice only, and the original container in which such drug is delivered bears a label on which appears the date of delivery, the directions for use of such drug, the name of such practitioner, the name of the patient, and if such drug is prescribed for an apimal a statement showing the species of the

The refilling of any prescription for a parbiturate or a central nervous system stimulant unless and to the limited extent designated on the prescription by the practitioner, or sub-

sequently authorized by him.

(3) The delivery of a barbiturate or a central nervous system stimulant upon written prescription unless the pharmacist who filled such prescription files and retains it for a period of two years.

- (4) The actual or constructive possession or control of a barbiturate or a central nervous system stimulant by any person unless such person obtained such drug on the written pre-scription of a practitioner or unless such per-son obtained such drug by direct delivery from s practitioner for bona fide medical use, and except as provided in §404.04.
- (5) The refusal to make available and to afford full opportunity to check any record, file, stock or inventory, as required by §404.06. The failure to keep records, as required

by \$404.05.

- (7) The using by any person to his own advantage, or the revealing of any information required under the authority of \$404.06, con-cerning any method or process which, as a trade secret, is entitled to protection, except to law enforcement officers, or an officer or employee of the Florida board of health, or to a court when relevant in a judicial proceeding under this chapter.
- (8) Obtaining or attempting to obtain a barbiturate or a central nervous system stimulant, or procuring or attempting to procure the administration of a barbiturate or a central nervous system stimulant:

(a) By fraud, deceit, misrepresentation or subterfuge, or

(b) By the forgery or alteration of a prescription, or

(c) By the concealment of a material fact,

(d) By the use of a false name or the giving of a false address.

- Making a false statement in any prescription, order, report, or record referred to in this chapter.
- (10) Falsely assuming the title of, or falsely representing any person to be, a manufacturer, wholesaler, pharmacist, physician, dentist, veterinarian, or other authorized person, for

the purpose of obtaining a barbiturate or central nervous system stimulant.

(11) Making, issuing or uttering any false or

forged prescription. (12) Affixing any false or forged label to a package or receptacle containing a barbiturate or a central nervous system stimulant. Eistory.--Comp. 12, ch. 57-384.

404.03 Exemptions, general.—Nothing in this chapter shall apply to any compound, mixture, or preparation containing, in addition to a barbiturate or a central nervous system stimulant, a sufficient quantity of another potent drug or drugs to prevent its use as a hypnotic, or a somnifacient, or a central nervous system stimulant, as the case may be. Mistory-Comp. \$3, eb. 87-384.

404.04 Exemptions, additional.— The provisions of \$404.02 (1) and (4) shall not be ap-

plicable to:

(1) The delivery for medical or scientific purposes only of barbiturates or central nervous system stimulants to persons included in any of the classes hereinafter named, or to the agents or employees of such persons, for use in the usual course of their business or practice or in the performance of their official duties, as the case may be, or

(2) The actual or constructive possession or control of barbiturates or central nervous system stimulants by such persons or their agents or employees for such employees for

such use, to-wit:

(a) Pharmacists.

(b) Practitioners.

(c) Persons who procure barbiturates or central nervous system stimulants for disposition in good faith and in the course of professional practice only, by or under the supervision of pharmacists or practitioners employed by them; or for the purpose of lawful research, teaching, or testing, and not for resale, including medical schools.

(d) Hospitals and other institutions which procure barbiturates or central nervous system stimulants for lawful administration by practitioners, but only for use by or in the partic-

ular hospital or other institution.

(e) Officers or employees of federal, state or local governments acting in their official capacity only, or informers acting under their jurisdiction.

(f) Manufacturers, wholesalers, carriers, and warehousemen.

Elstory .-- Comp. 54, ch. 87-384

404.05 Records. - Persons designated in §404.04, except carriers and warehousemen, officers active in official capacity, shall keep such records pertaining to barbiturates and central nervous system stimulants for two years.

Mistery,--Comp. \$6, ch. 87-384.

404.06 Inspection.—Prescriptions, files and records required by or under the authority of this chapter, and stocks of barbiturates and

ENTIAL

central nervous system stimulants, shall be open for inspection to officers and employees of the Florida board of health. No person having knowledge by virtue of his office of any such prescriptions, files or records shall divulge such knowledge, except in connection with a prosecution or proceeding in court, or before a licensing or registration board or officer, to which prosecution or proceeding the person to whom such prescriptions, files or records relate is a party.

Ristory.--Comp. §6, ch. 57-384.

404.07 Contraband.—All barbiturates and central nervous system stimulants, as herein defined, which may be handled, delivered, possessed, or distributed contrary to any provision of this chapter shall be and the same are hereby declared to be contraband, and shall be subject to seizure and confiscation by any law enforcement officer of this state, or any political subdivision thereof, and by any officer or employee of the Florida board of health.

Ristory.—Comp. §7, ch. 57-324.

404.08 Scizure and forfeiture of vessel, vehicle, or aircraft illegally used.—

- (1) Any vessel, vehicle, or aircraft which has been or is being used in violation of any provision of this chapter, or in, upon, or by means of which any violation of this chapter has taken or is taking place may be seized and forfeited, provided that no vessel, vehicle, or aircraft used by any person as a common carrier, in the transaction of business as such common carrier, shall be forfeited under the provisions of this chapter unless it shall appear that in the case of a railway car or engine, the owner, or in the case of any other such vessel, vehicle, or aircraft the owner or the master of such vessel, or the owner or conductor, driver, pilot, or other person in charge of such vehicle, or aircraft, was at the time of the alleged illegal act a consenting party thereto; provided further that no vessel, vehicle, or aircraft shall be forfeited under the provisions of this chapter by reason of any act or omission established by the owner thereof to have been committed, or omitted, by any person other than such owner while such vessel, vehicle, or aircraft was unlawfully in the possession of a person who acquired possession thereof in violation of the criminal law of the United States, or of this state or any political subdivision thereof.
- (2) Any law enforcement agency is empowered to authorize or designate officers, agents, or other persons to carry out the seizure provisions of this section. It shall be the duty of any officer, agent, or other person so authorized or designated, or authorized by law, whenever he shall discover any vessel, vehicle, or aircraft which has been or is being used in violation of any of the provisions of this chapter, or in, upon, or by means of which any violation of this chapter has taken or is taking place, to seize such vessel, vehicle, or aircraft and to place it in the custody of such person as

may be authorized or designated for that purpose by the respective law enforcement agency, pursuant to these provisions.

History,--Comp. \$8, ch. 57-384.

404.09 Procedure to have vessel, vehicle, or aircraft forfeited or sold.—

(1) The state attorney within whose jurisdiction the vessel, vehicle, or aircraft has been seized because of its use or attempted use in violation of any provision of this chapter shall proceed against the vessel, vehicle, or aircraft by rule to show cause in the circuit court having jurisdiction of the offense, and have it forfeited to the use of or the sale by the law enforcement agency making the seizure on producing due proof that the vehicle was being used in violation of the provision of this chapter.

(2) Where it appears by affidavit that the residence of the owner of the vessel, vehicle, or aircraft is out of the state, or is unknown to the state attorney, the court shall appoint an attorney-at-law to represent the absent owner against whom the rule shall be tried contradictorily within ten days after its filing. This affidavit may be made by the state attorney or one of his assistants. The attorney so appointed may waive service and citation of the petition or rule, but shall not waive time nor any legal defense.

(3) Whenever the head of the law enforcement agency effecting the forfeiture deems it necessary or expedient to sell the property forfeited, rather than retain it to the use of the law enforcement agency, he shall cause an advertisement to be inserted in an official newspaper of the county where the seizure was made, and after ten days shall dispose of said property at public auction to the highest bidder for cash and without appraisal.

(4) The proceeds of all funds collected from any such sale shall be paid into the general fund of the county in which the seizure and sale was made.

History.--Comp. \$9, ch. 57-384.

404.10 Rights of mortgagee or vendor.—The rights of any bona fide holder of a duly recorded mortgage, or duly recorded vendor's privilege, on the property seized under this chapter shall not be affected by the seizure.

History.--Comp. §10, cb. \$7-384.

404.11 Injunctions.—The Florida board of health shall have the right to institute an action in its own name to enjoin the violation of any of the provisions of this chapter. Said action for an injunction shall be in addition to any other action, proceeding, or remedy authorized by law.

History .-- Comp. §11, ch. 57-384.

History .-- Comp. \$13, ch. 57-364.

404.12 Rules and regulations.—The Florida board of health shall, from time to time, adopt such rules and regulations as may be reasonably necessary to implement and carry out the purpose of this chapter.

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CONFIRM

404.13 Exceptions and exemptions not required to be negatived.—In any complaint, information, or indictment, and in any action or proceeding brought for the enforcement of any provisions of this chapter, it shall not be necessary to negative any exception, excuse, proviso, or exemption contained in this chapter, and the burden of proof in any such exception, excuse, proviso, or exemption shall be upon the defendant.

History.--Comp. \$13, ch. 57-384.

404.14 Notice of conviction to be sent to licensing board or officer.—On the conviction of any person of the violation of any provision of this chapter a copy of the judgment and sentence and of the opinion of the court, if any opinion be filed, shall be sent by the clerk of the court to the board or officer, if any, by whom the convicted defendant has been licensed or registered to practice his profession or to carry on his business. On the conviction of any such person the court may, in its discretion, recommend to the respective licensing board or officer the suspension or revocation of the registration or license of the convicted defend-

ant to practice his profession or to carry on his business.

History.--Comp. \$14, cb. 57-384.

404.15 Penaltics.—Any person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter shall, upon conviction thereof, he punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, or shall be imprisoned in the state penitentiary for not more than 2 years, or both such fine and imprisonment. For any second offense any person violating any provision of this chapter shall be punished by fine of not more than \$5,000.00, or shall be imprisoned in the state penitentiary for not less than 2 years, nor for not more than 5 years, or both such fine and imprisonment. For any third or succeeding offense any person violating any provision of this chapter shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000.00, or shall be imprisoned in the state penitentiary for not less than 5 years, nor for more than 10 years, or both such fine and imprisonment. Any practitioner, as defined in \$404.01(6), or any pharmacist, as defined by \$404.01(7), upon a third conviction his license to practice in Florida shall be automatically revoked.

Mistory.--Comp. §15, ch. 57-384.



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### Lansky Is Jailed On Drug Counts

By JAMES SAVAGE Berald Staff Writer

Meyer Lansky, rated by police as one of the most powerful men in American organized crime was arrested and jailed Friday on charges of not having a prescription for drugs to soothe

his nervous stomach.

Flotida Department of Law Enforcement agents arrested Lansky, 67, at his plush Miami Beach condominium apartment Friday afternoon on felony and misdemeanor charges of having unauthorized prescription drugs.

The jailing marked the first time in 12 years that police have managed to get him behind bars. In 1958, he was detained briefly in New York for questioning in the slaying of Murder Inc. killer Albert Anastasia.

Lansky later was released after a \$50,000 bond was posted by bondsman David

Margolin.

When Lansky, wearing light blue pants and a dark sweater over a sports shirt, walked out of jail at 9:30 p.m. his only comment was to TV cameramen who directed bright lights on him.

"Take it easy fellows, take

it easy," he said.

THE UNAUTHORIZED drugs were found in Lansky's possession, FDLE agents said, when he was searched by U.S. Customs agents at Miami International Airport. Mar. 4.

The routine search was conducted when Lansky arrived at the airport rom

Acadulco, Mexico.

After the medicine was analyzed and Customs agents

determined there was no federal violation, the case was furned over to the FDLE acting in cooperation with the U.S. Justice Department's Organized Crime Strike Force staff here.

Seized during the airport search was an unlabeled plastic vial containing Donnatal tablets, FDLE agents said. Donnatal contains phenobarbital and is used as a mild sedative for nervous indigestion, they said.

•FLORIDA law makes it a felony to possess barbiturates without a prescription, and another state law makes it a misdemeanor to possess any unlabeled prescription drug.

Lansky was ordered held in lieu of \$50,000 bail by Circuit Judge Lavid Popper. The felony prescription violation charge cerries a two-year prison sentence and \$1,000 fine upon conviction and the misdemeanor carries a six-month jail term and \$500 fine.

Called by federal agents "one of the men who organized organized crime," Lansky has been described by some as the Mafia's chief financial adviser.

Other experts contend that Lansky works with the Mafia in some projects but is himself more powerful than any single Mafia chieftain,

BORN Maier Suchowjansky in Grodno, Russia, Lansky immigrated with his family to the lower East Side slums of New York when he was 9.

Before he was 27, Lansky had been arrested five times on charges ranging from disorderly conduct to suspicion of murder, but he never was convicted.

During the 20s Lansky teamed with Bugsy Singel to form the Bugs and Meyer Mob, the precursor of Murder, Inc.

When Siegel went to Las Vegas to create that city's gambling industry, Lansky came to South Florida to operate police-protected casipos.

AFTER THE Kefauver Committee investigations turned the spotlight on Lansky's illicit casino gambling operations, he moved to Cuba, where he became Havana's most powerful gambling figure.

Since Castro drove Lansky and his racketeer friends from Havana, the diminutive (5 feet 4 inches, 136 pounds) Lansky has lived in Hallandale and Miami Beach.

He currently lives at 5001 Collins Ave.

Federal organized-crime experts say that Lansky has been the nuiding financial genius behind the growth of gambling casino operations in the Bahamas and the Caribbean during the past decade.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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The MIAMI HERALI

<u>Mi</u>ami, Florida

Being followed

Date:

3/28/70

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Editor:

Title:

MEYER LANSKY Info concerning

[M 65-109]

Classification:

Submitting Office: Miami

Being Investigated



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Feds Com'i Siomach Lonsky's Nerve Pills

Crime lord Meyer Lansky, returning from an Acapulco, Mexico, meeting of the international sydndicate, failed to have a prescription for drugs he carried to calm his nervous stomach, it was charged Friday.

Lansky returned from the conclave, reportedly called on March 4, to discuss moves for legalized gambling in Quebec, Atlantic City and Miami Beach.

At that time U.S. Customs agents searched the longtime gambling czar and seized an unlabeled pill fottle containing Donnata! tablets — a mild sedative for nervous indigestion.

LANSKY, who suffers from a long time stomach condition for which he's been hospitalized in New York and Boston, was arrested at his Miami Beach apartment by Florida Department of Law Enforcement agents late Friday.

He is charged with felony and misdemeanor charges of possessing unauthorized prescription drugs. In Florida it's a felony to possess barbiturates without a prescription and a misdemeanor to possess unlabeled prescription drugs.

Lansky was freed on \$50,000 bond set by Circuit Court Judge David Popper. Conviction could result in a maximum two year sentence and \$1,000 fine on the felony with a possible six month term and \$500 on the lesser charge.

Despite an arrest record that dates back to the 1920s — the only time Lansky ever served behind bars, was three months in a New York jail in 1953 on a gambling operations conviction in Saratoga, N.Y.

HE WAS HELD briefly for questioning in the gangland slaying of Murder Incorporated killer Albert Anastasia in 1958. (Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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Miami (Beach), I

Being followed

Date: 3/29/70

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Editor. Title:

MEYER LANSKY Info concerning

[NBI 92-102]

Classification:

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Being Investigated





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## IRS Probes Lansky's

## Financial Dealings

#### By MARGARET CARROLL Herald Stall Writer

Federal tax detectives are taking a close look at the financial dealings of Meyer Lansky, the man who does investment counseling for organized crime.

The Internal Revenue Service investigation of Lansky's income tax returns came to light Tuesday in federal court when an assistant U.S. attorney, Lavinia Redd, filed a lawsuit designed to force a Miami man to produce documents the IRS says it needs for the probe.

The lawsuit says that Ben Sigelbaum, who has offices in the Dupont Building, was served with a summons but refused to produce certain records for IRS inspection.

#### IN AN AFFIDAVIT attached to Miss

Redd's complaint, IRS agent William P. Bushmiaer said he was looking into the "correctness" of Lansky's income tax returns for 1967 and 1968.

Sigelbaum, who has been the subject of federal probes himself, has varied business interests.

In the early 1960s, the FBI put an electronic bug in his office to find out what it could about profit-skimming at Las Vegas casinos.

Sigelbaum had been acquainted with Ed Levinson, a major Vegas gambler at whose office the FBI also had installed an unseen ear during the 1960s.

DURING THE government's probe of former Senate aide Bobby Baker, Sigel-

baum was issued a summons to tell what he knew about Baker's activities in Las Vegas, if any.

Bushmiaer's statement said that Sigelbaum showed up empty-handed last November when he was summoned to the IRS office in Miami.

Bushmiaer had asked for any records involving real estate or financial transactions connected with Lansky.

Sigelbaum also declined to provide the names and addresses of persons who he might know had been involved in land ceals with Lansky in 1967 and 1968, the statement said.

The court was asked to order Sigelbaum to appear and show cause why he should not comply with the sur nons. Miami Hereid Miami, Florid Osto <u>Hill</u>



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# Lansky Pol. Set-Up Vegas Trip, l Expense Poid

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By JAMES SAVAGII Hereld Stall Writer

One of mobster !vieyer Lansky's favorite ₹ravel agents took a group of past and present Miami Beach city officials on an all-expense-paid, four-day trip to Las Vegas two weeks ago.

The unpublicized trip to Las Vegas forced Beach Councilman Norman Ciment to postpone a public hearing on the issue of casino gambling on Miami Beach.

And with a campaign to bring casinos to the heach well underway, the trip has increased speculation among organized crime watchers about the behind-the-scenes role Lansky may be playing.

THERE is no evidence that the Miami Beach officials realized their host for the trip is a good friend of Lansky's, but travel agent Adolph (Ad) Schwartz makes no secret of

his warm feelings for Lansky.

"I don't have any business with Mr. Lansky, but I know him. I don't believe what the papers say about him, he's always a real gentleman," Schwartz said in an interview.

Well-cast as the 'genial host for fun-loving gamblers, Schwartz was wearing a neatly tailored yellow

sweater and yellow sjacks with white shoes when he was questioned about Lansky.

Schwartz explained that he is an agent for the Flamingo Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. His job, he said, is to arrange trips, commonly called junkets, to the hotel.

HE DOWNGRADED his relationship with Lansky. "I don't see him that often. I know him like I know a lot of people."

Lansky was arrested eight days before Schwartz and the Flamingo paid for the trip to Las Vegas for Ciment; Ciment's law partner, Miami Beach Municipal Judge Robert Grover, former Councilman Joe Malek and Miami Constable Murray Beach Meyerson.

The arrest was based on adrugs police found

In addition to the illicit prescription drugs, lawfion found a list of names and telephone numbers they searched Lansky.

ONE of the names was "Add." Next to that name was the home telephine number of Adolph Schwaftz, his office number at the Diners Fugazy Travel Agency in Surfside and his wife's dress

when they searched Lansky at Miami International Airport upon his return from Acapulco, Mexico. shop number in the Singa-

pore Hotel, 9601 Collins Ave., Miami Beach.

It is at the Singapore, one of Lansky's favorite hangouts, investigators say, that Ad Schwartz often lunches with Meyer and his brother, Jake Lansky.

The Singapore is currently the subject of a lawsuit by Attorney General Earl Faircloth, who has charged the hotel is controlled directly or indirectly by the Mafia.

ALTHOUGH NOT a member of the Masia himself, Lansky is considered one of organized crime's elder statesmen and its chief financial strategist.

Lansky, who has been active in illegal casinos in South Florida and legal casinos in Cuba and the Bahamas, is no stranger to the Flamingo in Las Vegas.

One of his closest associates in crime, the late Bugsy Siegel, built the Flamingo, and in 1960 Lansky was paid \$200,000 as a finders fee when a Miami Beach group headed by Morris Lansburgh bought the hotel and casino.

Lansburgh has no financial interest in the Flamings today, but it has always been a favorite destination for gambling junkets from Miami



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Beach.

IN ADDITION to the Miami Beach officials, Ciment, Meverson and Judge Grover, more than 100 other passengers from South Florida took the complimentary trip to the Flamingo on April 5

In addition to first class transportation on a charter flight, the junketeers enjoyed luxury class accommodations for their four-day stay.

Ciment was not anxious to discuss his Las Vegas holiday.

He had the council postpone a major public hearing on the casino question from April 8th to 9th so he could be in town to attend.

But he denied he knew he was going to Las Vegas when he moved the hearing

up one day. "I thought I was going to New York," he said.

WHEN HE did return from Las Vegas in time for the postponed hearing, Ciment led the cross-examination of anti-casino witnesses.

"I don't think it's anybody's business," Ciment complained when questioned about his Las Vegas trip.

"I went on my own accord. I'm not going to answer any more questions."

Ciment said he didn't know Schwartz and he wouldn't discuss who had arranged for the trip.

"Did you gamble? Do you owe the Flamingo any money?" he was asked.

"No comment. Have a nice weekend. Goodbye," Ciment said.

FORMER Councilman Joe Mulck, one of Ciment's close friends, was more willing to discuss the trip. Malek said



MEYERSON CIMENT

he's been the guest of Las Vegas hotels for complimentary tripo several times in the past.

He said he had met Ad Schwartz on junkets, but he had never heard of him as associated with Meyer Lansky.

Judge Grover readily acknowledged he went on the Vegas junket. He said "I've been doing this for years—long before I became a judge.

"This is an established thing with the major hotels out there. They invite people they feel are substantial and can afford to lose a little money, and bring them out there. They don't say you're supposed to gamble, but that's more or less 1 "They understood. don't . make much on me - like anyone of intelligence I know the house wins in the long run."

Grover said he could not comment on the merits of the Miami Beach casino gambling proposal, but said he knows Ciment "is really working hard to determine what's best for the city" on the issue.

The judge said it was "absolutely, most ridiculous to tie Lansky, even by innuendo, to the people who go on these junkets."

While the junketeers were enjoying Las Vegas, Miami Beach attorney Ben Cohen joined the party and returned to Miami aboard their charterec's flight.

Cohen has been the subject of much speculation by those trying to analyze the real powers behind the scenes in the current casino campaign.

COHEN HAS admitted privately that he thinks casinos would help Miami Beach's tourist economy, but he has

carefully avoided taking a public stand.

An ex-convict who served time on an income tax charge, Cohen, during the 1950s, was identified with the infamous S&G gambling

syndicate on the Beach through is representation of syndicate members.

The Herald was unable to reach Meyerson for comment.

SPECULATION about Lansky's possible role in the campaign to bring legal casinos to Miami Beach began last month when Lansky attended a controversial meeting in Acapulco.

While in Acapulco, Lansky was watched by U.S. federal agents, Canadian police and Mexican police.

In addition to New York lawyer Moses Polakoff, Lansky met with several mysterious Canadian criminals while in Mexico.

According to a story in The To onto Telegram, the meeting in Acapulco was set up to coordinate the Mafa's plan to infiltrate Quebec's

plans to establish a legalized gambling casino.

Other reports indicated that ansky's Acapulco meetings also dealt with his plans to infiltrate legalized

gambling in Miami Beach, Atlantic City, N.J. and Acapulco, in addition to Quebec.

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MM 92-102

67C At 1:15 p.m. on April 23, 1970, SA observed MEYER LANSKY unknown individual in the coffee shop of the fontainbleau Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida. After observing the above persons, SA contacted

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MM 92-102

On May 13, 1970, subject was contacted in regard to the information received from the seattle. Office and LANSKY verified that an apparent attempt had been made. He stated he knew of no individuals who would do such a thing, however, he admitted that the possibility existed inasmuch as he enjoys a great deal of notoriety from the news media, and is possibly envied by some younger members of a certain Italian group, reported by the news media to be La Cosa Nostra members.





LANSKY volunteered to make a long distance and discuss the matter further with a Miami FBI Agent present.

The subject expressed gratitude that the FBI was concerned and stated that either he or would contact the FBI immediately if anything further developed. The subject does not feel that the "Reader's Digest" article had a direct affect on the "Reader's Digest" article had a direct affect on the present situation, and could not pinpoint any particular group or individuals who might consider this type of thing. He, however, indicated that he has thought of thing. He, however, indicated that he has thought about the possibility for some time inasmuch as about the possibility for some time inasmuch as there are so many "nuts" around this time. He also stated that many of his old Italian friends are no longer living and he does not know the younger Italian element well.

He also indicated that if after June 1, 1970 he is not guilty of the two state charges he would seriously consider contacting the Miami FBI Office before leaving the Miami area, advising SA of his travel plans and destination. He also

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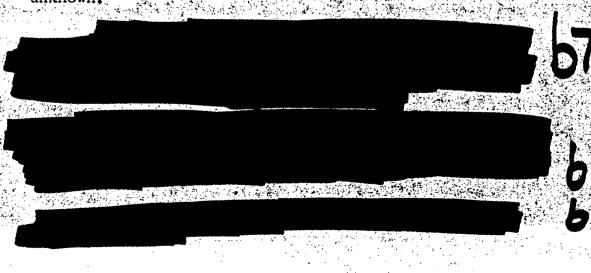


voluntarily advised that

is seriously ill mentally and physically. He stated will no longer dine out and spends most of his time in his apartment drinking heavily.

He stated has, for some time, had approximately two drinks a day but in the past 3½ months has been drinking approximately a fifth of liquor a day. LANSKY indicated that past may have some effect on his present condition.

Mr. DONALD WINNE, Attorney with the Los
Angeles Strike Force, telephonically advised SA
on May 6, 1970 that he had received
Information that at the time subject was arrested by
United States Customs in Miami early in March, 1970,
among other items found in LANSKY's possession, was
a telephone number 642-4979, location or area code
unknown.



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south Apartments.

On May 12, 1970, at 9:40 a.m., subject was observed driving a blue Chevrolet, Florida tag 10E17103, four-door hardtop Impala. The subject stopped at the Crystal House Apartments, walked into the lobby and left a newspaper at the front desk. The subject re-entered his car, returned to Season's

Approximately 30 minutes later, the subject was observed leaving the Season's South Apartments on foot and returned to the Crystal House Apartments.

On May 13, 1970, at 7:55 p.m., MEYER LANSKY was observed walking south on Collins Avenue, Miami, Florida. He was confronted at this time by SA At first LANSKY did not acknowledge the presence of the agent and for a short time muttered that the agent should talk to his lawyer, etc.

After LANSKY was informed that the nature of contact was for the purpose of determining any information relating to he related essentially the same information as already set forth in report.

In addition, LANSKY made a long distance call in the presence of the agent

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LANSKY stated has been drinking heavily lately and LANSKY is concerned over his mental; and physical health refuses to dine out and

mentioned he can no longer control and that he is almost irrational.

appears to be withdrawn into a shell.

LANSKY advised he plans to travel to Seattle after June 1, 1970, if he is not in jail. He stated he is contemplating notifying the FBI in the future of his travel plans, but would have to think it over.

The interview was terminated with LANSKY thanking the FBI for its concern with the situation and saying he would call if he learned anything further. He noted he no longer has friends he can trust among the Italians and also expressed concern with the number of "nuts" running loose. He stated "when I walk the streets I never know when I may get it."

On May 18, 1970, LANSKY called and advised

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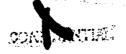
everything seemed to be back to normal.

On May 19, 1970, LANSKY was observed in the company of at approximately 11:15 a.m. LANSKY motioned to SA indicating he wished to discuss something. LANSKY appeared friendly and exchanged cordialities. After stating he knew nothing further in regard to the situation, he stated after considering the matter of notifying the FBI of his travel plans, he had decided to do so.

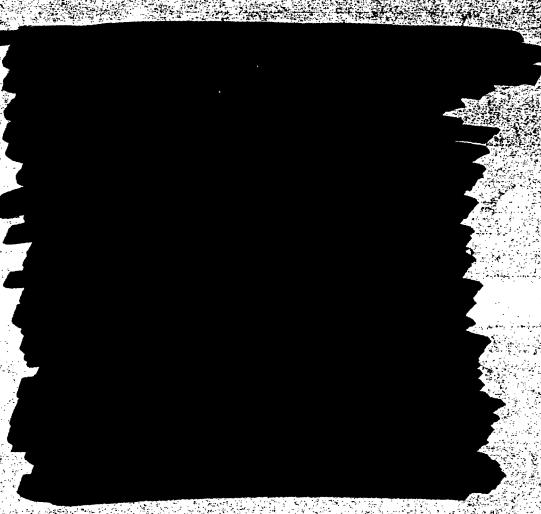
Tacoma, Washington if he is not in jail after the 1st of June, 1970 and indicated he was confident he would not be in jail. He stated he then planned to visit Ohio and Michigan, however, he did not wish for any newspapers or other law enforcement agencies to be notified. He also stated he would personally call this agent or would notify an agent in the area where he is staying of his travel plans. He stated he did not have reservations of FBI Agents following him since he had never been treated unfairly by one of them.

No promises were made to LANSKY and he apparently expects none.

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LANSKY also pointed out that he was in the singapore Hotel on May 13, 1970, between 1:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.

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and were observed leaving the Dade County
Justice Building.

Both individuals entered a dark blue over light blue Mercury driven

It was thereafter determined that the subject's trial was set aside for Wednesday, June 3, 1970 before Judge CARLING STEDMAN.

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CONFIDENTIAL

## Grand Jury in Miami Probes Movement of Las Vegas Funds

By JAMES SAVAGE Herald Staff Writer

The U.S. Grand Jury here has begun a major investigation to determine if Mafiatinged money was skimmed from the Flamingo Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas and secretly funneled to Miamir

If the probe leads to indictments, it could rival carlier skimming investigations that rocked Las Vegas' legalized gaming industry and had farreaching effects on U.S. organized crime.

The investigation undertaken by Internal Revenue Service intelligence agents began on Aug. 8, 1969, when

a rail was conducted at the offices of the Flamingo-Hotel in New York City.

Credit accounts and other records were seized in the raid.

THOSE RECORDS and other information have now been digested and a parade of witnesses is being called to testify before the Grand Jury here.

Miami Beach hotelman Morris Lansburgh, a former co-owner of the Flamingo, was one of the first witnesses called.

He appeared on May 28 at the Grand Jury room in the old Post Office Building, carrying records.

Chester Simms, the Flamingo casino manager during the years the Flamingo was owned by Lansburgh's group, is scheduled to testify before the panel at 11 a.m. tdoay.

IN AUGUST 1987, Lansburgh and his Miami Beach partner Samuel Cohen sold the Flamingo to multimillionaire Kirk Kerkorian. Some of the witnesses subpensed to testify Thursday worked for the Flamingo in its New York office during the Lansburgh-Cohen ownership from 1981 to 1967 and continued when Kerkorian took over.

Appearing before the Grand Jury Thursday were Bernard Cohen, the head of the Flamingo's New York office; Arthur Herbert, Leo Samelson, Harry Simmons, and

Sy Goller, plus two of/ice secret/ries.

THE NEW YORK City office handled arrangements for junkets for gamblers in the northeastern United States and also handled collections of funds for those who played on credit at the Flamingo — and lost.

A junket is a low-cost trip designed to attract freespending gamblers to a casino.

Lansburgh actively promoted many junkets from the Miami area and elsewhere when he was co-owner of the Flamingo.

BESIDES former casino manager Simms, the government has subpensed several other Flamingo casino employes to testify today. They include Artie Newman, Sam Belkin and Buddy Banner.

A source close to the investigation told The Herald that it may continue for months and that before it concludes several Cosa Nostra figures from the northeastern United States would be called to testify.

The Mafia operative! will generally be questioned about collection duties the government believes they undertook for the Flamingo.

The investigation is being handled by IRS intelligence agenes working with U.S. Justice Department attorneys from both the Los Angeles and Miami Organized Crime Strike Force staffs.

SKIMMING, which is the widely used term for removing revenue from a casino before it can be taxed, has been a scare word to the Nevada gaming industry since the early 1960s.

Although there were few successful prosecutions, Justice Department and IRS agents outlined how the complicated skim was removing hundreds of thousands of dollars from state and U.S. tax coffers.

During the early '60s, organized crime experts considered skim funds one of the major sources of revenue funding the growing of syndicate crime and its infiltration into legitimate business and overs as casinos.

PHOTOGRAPHS of some of the couriers who carried the skimmed funds from Las Vegas to Chicago and Miami Cord, Fortal

amingo.

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and the Bahamas and, finally to secret bank accounts in Switzeriand, flave been published in national magazines.

Miami's Meyer Lansky has been the constant factor in changing cast of characters the government determined was involved in the skimming operations in the early 1960s.

Lansky, the chairman of the board organized crime in America, had a longtime association with the Flamingoin Las Vegas.

HIS NEW YORK partner in crime, Benjamin (Bügsy) Siegel, went to Nevada to build the Flamingo in 1946 when Meyer Lansky moved from the North to set up headquarters in South Florida.

On June 20, 1947, Bugsy was shor to death in his mistress' living room by an unknown assassin. Investigators believe he was killed in a dispute with Lansky and other mobsters over control of the Flamingo.

In 1960, Lansky was paid a \$200,000 secret finder's fee when the Fimaingo was sold by Albert Parvin to the group headed by Lansburgh and Cohen of Miami Beacil.

WHEN LANSKY was arrestrid two months ago by Florida Department of Law Enforcement agents on a charge of unlawful posses-

sion of a barbiturate, agents found in his list of telephone numbers the name and number of the local Flamingo Hotel agent.

Lansky had three phone numbers for Adolph (Ad) Schwartz who arranges junkets from Miami to the Flamingo.

Schwartz, who told The Herald he is an employe of the Flamingo, admitted he knows Lansky but "I don't have any business with him," he said.

While most past skimming investigations have concentrated on the movement of hidden funds from the actual casino floor, it is believed the Miami probe will examine the movement of cash payments from gamblers with credit accounts.

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#### Employes of Casino Testify -In Probe of Gambling Funds

By JAMES SAVAGE Herald Staff Writer

Former Flamingo Hotel casino manager Chester Simms testified before the U.S. Grand Jury here Friday in the continuing probe of the movement of gambling money from Las Vegas to Miami.

Simms, dressed in a welltailored blue suit and wearing black horn-rimmed glasses, met with the panel in closed session for half an hour, leaving the jury room at noon.

AFTER SIMMS was asked questions by U.S. Justice Department attorneys he was granted permission to leave the jury room several times to consult with his attorney, E. David Rosen.

Justice Department attorneys from Los Angeles and Mizmi are conducting the probe, using material gathered by Internal Revenue Scrvice agents.

The investigation is centered on the movement of money from the Flamingo Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas to Miami.

Witnesses subpensed to appear before the Grand Jury panel Thursday included several Flamingo employes who work in the hotel's New York City office.

RECORDS FROM that office were seized in a raid by IRS agents last August.

Others who appeared with Simms Friday included Flamingo casino employes Art Newman, Sam Belkin and Buddy Banner. A source close to the investigation said that it may continue for months and that before it concludes several Cosa Nostra figures from the northeastern United States would probably be called to testify.

One of the first witnesses in the probe was Miami Beach hotelman Morris Lansburgh, who testified on May 28 before the Grand Jury.

Lansburgh, together with his Miami Beach partner Samuel Cohen, owned the Flamingo from 1961 to 1967. In addition to being casino manager, Simms held a 3.75 per cent ownership share with Lansburgh and Cohen.

In 1967 the Miami Eeach group sold the Flaminga to multimillionaire Kirk Kerkotian. (Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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The MIANI HERALI

Miami, Florida 🖃

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Date: 6/6/70

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On June 12, 1970, at 3:05 p.m., MEYER

LANSKY was observed entering gold

Chevrolet at 5001 Collins Avenue. An unknown white
male was in the passenger's seat.

At 3:11 p.m., they were observed stopping at the front of the Jefferson National Bank, 401 Arthur Godfrey Road.

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# Junisdiction in Drug Case at Issue Juiolge Orolers

## Homsley

### Acquiitted

By PAUL LEVINE Herald Staff Writer

Organized-crime figure Neyer Lansky, the recipient of a directed verdict of acquittal on drug charges, walked happily out of a courtroom Thursday and left the state attorney's office funning at a judge.

With two of his aging associates looking on, Lansky sat quietly as Criminal Court Judge Carling Stedman declared him innocent of illegal possession of barbiturates.

A HEARTY "Mazel Tov" (congratulations) was directed toward Lansky from the direction of Gactano (Tony) Ricci and Phil (the Stick) Kovolick, Ricci, 76, of Hollywood, spent his colorful career with Al Capone, Frank Costello and other! involved in bootlegging, gambling and prostitution. Kovolick, 61, also of Hollywood, has known Lansky since Prohibition, when he was associated with the Bugs and Meyer moo of Prohibition days, run by Lansky and the late Benjamin (Bugsy) Siegel.

Prosecutor Ai Sepe, assistant state attorney, did not share the enthusiasm.

He stormed out of the courtroom before Stedman finished his short statement on the acquittal, in which the controversial judge did not give the specific reason for his finding. "The state has failed to prove the material allegations, and this is fatal to the prosecution." Stedman told the jury in ordering that the defense need not present its case.

Stedman may have tipped off his decision, however, moments earlier after hearing arguments on a motion for the directed verdict. De-

fens: lawyer Joseph Varon, of Hollywood, maintained that the state could not prosecute Lansky for possession of the drug because it was discovered in a search conducted on federal property — the U.S. Customs enclosure at Miami International Airport.

"'DO WE HAVE jurisdiction over the port customs office?' "Stedman asked, reading his own remarks of seven months ago in a drug case ruling. "I realize it is within the geographic confines of Dade County, but isn't it under lease to the federal government? I am scriously wondering if we have jurisdiction over such an offense. In offenses committed in the Everglades National Park and the Miccosuklice Nation we don't,' but it is in Dede County, but do we have jurisdiction of this?"

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The MIANI HERA!

<u>Ni</u>ami, Florida

Being followed

Date: 6/19/70

Edition:

Authora

Editor:

Title:

MEYER LANSKY
Info concerning

[MI 92 - 102]

Classification:

Submitting Office Niami

Being investigated

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Regardless of his serious wondering hewever, Stedman denied the motion to suppress in that case, involving possession of marijuana. He reversed himself Thursday in ordering the directed verdict to Lansky.

Sepc, who will seek Stedman's bench seat in the September primary, declined comment after a hasty exit from the courtroom.

Lansky, often called the "chairman of the board of organized crime," sat silently throughout the daylong trial.

Wearing a gray bow tie, white shirt and blue sport coat, the 67-year-old financial wizard of the underworld said afterward he needed barbiturate tablets for his stomach.

"DO YOU HAVE an ulcer?" a reporter asked the longtime gangland figure.

"Three of them," Lansky said patting his stomach. "I've had them for 12 years."

Customs officials confiscated an unmarked bottle containing 154 tablets of Donnatal, a common barbiturate often used by ulcer patients. They found three other bottles of pills in prescription bottles.

The bottle was taken from Lansky shortly after his flight arrived from Acapulco, Mexico. "Some were for my stomach, some for a heart condition," Lansky said.

It is illegal to possess the drug without it being in prescription container.

Varon implied there was a simple explanation for the charges, which never reached the jury.

"If the defendant were John Smith instead of Meyer Lansky," he said, "there never would have been a prosecution."

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On June 22, 1970, SA observed

MEYER LANSKY and at 12:55 p.m. in a bronze

Chevrolet Impala in the vicinity of West To Dixie Highway and 135th Street;



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On July 2, 1970, the Seattle FBI Office noted that the subject stayed a short time at the winthree Hotel in Seattle and thereafter visited

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The Seattle FBI Office noted no apparent record of the subject's activities while in the Seattle division.

For the information of the Bureau, a copy of an article appearing in the "Atlantic Journal" on pages 62-69 of the July, 1970 issue follows:

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# THE LITTLE WHO LAUGHS AT THE LAW

#### by Nicholas Gage

hen Maier Suchowljansky arrived on Ellis Island from Grodno, Russia, in 1911, his mother, in all the confusion, could not remember the day or even the month in which he had been born nine years earlier. So the immigration officials gave him July 4 as a birthdate, hoping, perhaps, to instill in the boy a sense of patriotism and high aspirations.

In many ways Maier Suchowljansky, who Americanized his name to "Meyer Lansky," lived up to that hope. He became so patriotic that he moved heaven and earth to get his older son into West

Point. He is an ardent supporter of U. S. involvement in Vietnam. As for material success, he set his aspirations high and has achieved the directorship of a network of enterprises as big as General Motors. His personal fortune is estimated to be somewhere between \$100 million and \$300 million.

The thing that sets Meyer Lansky apart from most men who have achieved the American Dream is his line of business. He chose to pursue his ambitions not in steel or oil, not in automobiles of banking, but in crime. In that field he is as much o a visionary and innovator as Andrew Carnegie



Henry Ford, and John D. Rocke ler were in theirs. Lanky's career has been long mysterious, but tederal law enforcement authorities have followed it with interest. The information they have collected makes it possible to piece together an outline of the Lansky story. Lansky is the main architect of the giant conglomerate that is organized crime in the United States. Forty years ago he helped pull together a group of rival gangs, including the Mafia, into a national network and then proceeded to shape it into a silent, streamlined colossus which is now, in his own words, "bigger than U. S. Steel."

As a director of the organized crime syndicate, of which the Masia is the biggest branch, Lansky is so powerful that he controls legitimate corporations, runs a gambling network that stretches from Las Vegas to Beirut, and "buys" whole governments with bribes. Even the U. S. Nayy once had to plead

for his help.

He has convinced the syndicate to de-emphasize such high-risk enterprises as narcotics, prostitution, and murder-by-contract, and enter new fields such as banking, investments, manufacturing, and real estate by using thousands of fronts, some so sophisticated they may never be penetrated. In addition, he has developed new ways to promote the most lucrative traditional source of income—gambling—in the Caribbean, England, Europe, and the Middle East.

ansky the man is a fascinating series of contradictions. His personal style is radically disterfent from that of the eigar-smoking professional mobster portrayed by Edward G. Robinson in Little Cacsar or by Rod Steiger in Al Capone. At sixty-eight, Lansky is gray-haired, short, thin, even ascetic in appearance. In many ways he is indistinguishable from a successful investment broker on a two-week Miami Beach vacation from Scarsdale. His suits are conservative in cut, and his home, until recently, was a modest three-bedroom ranch-style house in Hallandale, Florida, a suburb of Miami. He drives (rented) Chevrolets, walks the family dog, and goes home every night to his wife. He brags about the grandchildren, takes his wife with him on annual vacations to Europe, and carefully shields her from contacts with his underworld friends. On the few instances when he was pushed into the public spotlight, Lansky showed occasional flashes of dry humor and an apparently relaxed, quiet

About a year ago Lansky sold the house in Hallandale and moved to a beachfront apartment building with tight security at 5001 Collins Avenue in Miami Beach, a short walk from the Fontaine-

Nicholas Gage is a veteran investigative reporter.
He has published articles about organized crime in newspapers and magazines.

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bleau and Eden R. Hotels. He reportedly made the move because he cared that the suburban home exposed him to the danger of being kidnapped for ransom by the Young Turks in the underworld, a fate that befell some New York gang leaders in late 1968.

-It would be out of character for Lansky to go around trailed by a string of bodyguards. It would also belie the image he tries to maintain of a retired businessman living off moderate investments. Instead, he counts for protection on the FBI agents who have been tailing him for over a decade. Rather than trying to shake his shadows in traditional crime-movie style, he carefully slows down whenever he notices the FBI car has fallen behind,

to give it a chance to catch up.

When he does feel that the law is crowding him too much, however, Lansky resorts to a favorite ploy -he pretends to be a very sick man, close to death. Whenever the heat is on-an investigation made public, a grand jury inquiry, a new task force of federal crime-fighters on his trail—the story starts to go around that Lansky is dying of cancer or some other terminal illness. A report in the files of the New York State Police, dating from the 1920s, states that there's no need to worry about Meyer Lansky's criminal abilities, because he can't survive the year. This report, to paraphrase Mark Twain, was greatly exaggerated. Lansky today is in the pink of health and looks ten years younger than his age. "He'll probably live to be a hundred," says an old friend and former racketeer.

Like any good businessman with a social conscience, Lansky makes occasional contributions to charity, but he is careful to make them small, in keeping with his image. They are usually between \$2500 and \$5000 and are given to reputable institutions. Lansky has made at least two small contributions to Brandeis University at the behest of his friend Joseph Linsey, a Boston businessman with underworld associations who is a large contributor to the university. Lansky has a 1962 letter from Abram Sachar, former president of Brandeis, thanking him for a contribution arranged by Mr. Linsey.

Even Lansky's tax returns, it is said, portray a retired investor living in moderate comfort off the return of a few prudent holdings. Lansky can justify every expenditure to the last cent, and he often doesn't take even the deductions to which he is entitled. For example, his holdings include \$90,000 worth of oil and gas leases which he bought in 1960 from Sam Garfield, a Michigan businessman who, over the years, has been associated in a number of deals with Lansky. To justify the sudden possession of such a large amount of cash, Lansky made it known first that he received a loan from a friend for -\$90,000 and then started making payments to Garfield. He is still drawing dividends from this investment, which is quite legal and helps him PPP-1 justily some of his modest expenditures.

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Another ploy used to tily his income came to light last November when the Toronto Telegram told the story of a bemused Toronto stockbroker. who, not knowing who Lansky was, agreed to arrange the purchase of \$250 worth of mining claims in Canada for him. According to sederal officials, four months later Lansky had the broker handle the sale of the same mining claims to two New Yorkers for \$40,000. Lansky subsequently claimed the \$38,750 "profit" on the deal as a capital gain and paid tax on it much to the dismay of the Internal Revenue Service. The IRS believes: that Lansky himself had given the New Yorkers the \$40,000 to buy the claims and thereby legitimatize or "dry clean" nearly \$10,000 of mob profits. Because the deal had taken place in Canada, there was no legal action the IRS could take.

n spite of being one of the richest and most powerful men in the United States, Lansky maintains his modest life-style down to the last detail, and with good reason. He has only to reminisce on the fate of his more flamboyant colleagues to be reminded of what happens to gangsters who flaunt their wealth. He started out with men like Joe Adonis, Frank Costello, Vito Genovese, Louis Lepke, Lucky Luciano, Dutch Schultz, and Bugsy Siegel. All loved to let their money show, and all wound up either executed, assassinated, deported, imprisoned, or deposed.

So Lansky hides his wealth and courts anonymity with a passion worthy of Howard Hughes. His phone number is unlisted and is changed periodically. When the phone rings, he never answers it personally but has his wife tell everyone but his closest friends that he is not home. He has never willingly given an interview. During the past year, I have written him several letters asking for interviews for this article and other assignments, but he has never answered any of them. A few months ago I was in Miami Beach driving slowly near where he lives when I caught sight of him, deeply tanned and comfortably dressed in dark blue trousers and a lightly checked blue shirt, casually walking his dog in front of his apartment house. But his sharp eyes caught my car slowing to a stop, and he quickly led his dog, a miniature Tibetan Shih Tzu named Bruiser, into his apartment house before I could reach him.

Whenever Lansky is called before a grand jury or an investigating committee, reporters try to catch him outside the jury rooms. Most of the time they fail. He has the building where he is to appear carefully scrutinized beforehand and usually knows some side exit he can use to slip out undetected. And on the few occasions reporters have managed to catch up to him, he has proven quite deft at not answering questions. When James Savage, a Miami Herald reporter, cornered him after a grand in the sales.

appearance st year and asked him for a common the proceedings, Lansky smiled and shook head. "I don't want to take the drama out of ye stories, so I don't think I'll say anything," he replied At another grand jury appearance six mon ago he was stopped by Hank Messick, a veterinvestigative reporter who has written several bo on the underworld, and once again Lansky turn away questions with carefully chosen quips. least you have a sense of humor," Messick remarkafter he gave up trying to get any direct answe" If you don't have a sense of humor, you don't have a sense of humor, and wall away.

He seldom goes out, and when he does, it is o to restaurants and clubs operated by old friends the rackets. Word goes out early that "Joe Mey (Lansky's savorite code name) will be visiting t evening. A quiet table in a dark corner is select and kept in readiness so he doesn't have to we He likes plain food and one, at most two, bourb before dinner. He has never been a heavy drinker a ladies' man. He smokes cigars after meals a cigarettes in between. He is greatly concerned ab the health dangers associated with cigarettes, hasn't managed to quit, and he doesn't like the trof siltered cigarettes, so he uses a three-inch cigare holder, which he believes helps keep out tar inicotine.

Lansky's main pleasures are simple. He likes travel, to go for walks, and to lie in the sun. Of he can be seen stretched out on a reclining chair the swimming pool of the Eden Roc Hotel, near apartment house, soaking up the sun. He is onlect 4 inches tall, and in swimming trunks he lethe rather imposing presence he commands of wise. He likes to walk so much that he sometimes terrupts his meetings to go for a stroll on the be-

At least once a year Lansky goes to Europe with wife, but he manages to combine business sightseeing. In his hotel rooms, where he spe most of his time, the Syndicate's overseas represe tives come to report to the chairman. Mrs. Lai is never introduced to any of these men, and meetings are never held in her presence.

These and other signs indicate that Lansky khis wife, an attractive sometime-blonde two years his junior, at least partially in the dark at his real wealth and position. On the rare occas when they go out together, he is careful to tip m less than when he is with friends or dining at When a reporter once knocked on the door of Lanskys' Hallandale home, Mrs. Lansky infor him through the screen door that her husband "misunderstood by the press and the FBI."

And on the sew occasions reporters have managed to catch up to him, he has proven quite dest at not answering questions. When James Savage, a Miami issues instructions, and divides the money that cherald reporter, cornered him after a grand jump Diers, bring in from Las Vegas, the Bahamas,

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from the various other sources of 3, dicate wealth.

Never far from his side are Vincent ("Jimmy Blue Eyes") Alo, representing the Masia, and Sam Tucker, the delegate for a Midwestern group of gangsters known as the Cleveland syndicate. By about 4 P.M. every day, Lansky stops working and heads for his apartment, often accompanied by his brother and chief lieutenant, Jake Lansky.

ike many another self-made millionaire, Lansky adheres to a brand of politics that is distinctly right-wing. On Victnam, for example: "He thinks we should go in there and blow Hanoi to pieces," says an acquaintance. "He's really disgusted with all these demonstrations against the war."

Lansky's servent conservatism and anti-Communism may have something to do with the end Fidel Castro put to his flourishing gambling setup in Cuba in 1959. But there are those, such as one federal agent, who believe that a right-wing outlook is concomitant with underworld success. "A lot of your mob chies are fierce conservatives," he says. "They're guys who came to this country with nothing and who did very well here, who found this a land of plenty. So, in the right-wing sense of the word, they're quite the ardent patriots."

Lansky is so patriotic, in fact, that in 1949 he used all the political influence at his command to win an appointment to West Point for his older son, Paul. He was nominated by the late New York State Supreme Court Justice Arthur G. Klein, who was then a congressman. Paul Lansky did fairly well at the school and rose to the rank of captain in the Air Force before resigning in 1963 to begin an engineering career on the West Coast. He now lives in Tacoma, Washington, with his wife and children and is a respected member of his community. To keep Paul's life from being affected by the Lansky name, Meyer has spread the rumor that his son broke with him several years ago and that they have not spoken to each other in a long time. This is not true, however. Lansky talks frequently with Paul on the telephone, sees his son whenever he can, and peaks proudly to his friends of the kind of life Paul nas made for himself.

Lansky has two other children, another son and a daughter. The son, Bernard, who is known as Buddy, lives in a comfortable house near his ather's old home in Hallandale, and is often seen a supervisory positions in hotels and motels in thich Meyer is said to have an interest. Lansky is ery close to Bernard, who has been partially cripaled since childhood, and spends a lot of time with im. Lansky's daughter, Sandra, has been married wice and had a reputation as a swinger when she was young.

Most Italians in the underworld share the opinm of Angelo ("Gyp") De Carlo, who, in a phone conversation taped by the FBI in New Jersey, referred to Lansky as the most respected non-Italian in the underworld. "There's only two Jews recognized in the whole-country today," he said. "That's Meyer and ... Moe Dalitz, but he [Dalitz] ain't got much recognition." (Dalitz is one of the founders of the uniquely successful "Cleveland syndicate," and until recently the man responsible for supervising the underworld's investments in Las Vegas.)

Lansky is easily the most heeded underworld leader, and for several good reasons. First, he has survived longer than anyone else in the underworld. In his fifty years in crime he has spent only three months in jail. Second, anyone who has associated himself with Lansky has made big money. Third, and most important, he possesses the best brain.

It was Lansky who developed the worldwide network of couriers, middlemen, bankers, and frontmenthat allows the underworld to take profits from illegal enterprises, to send them halfway around the world and then have the money come back laundered clean to be invested in legitimate businesses.

The way this works is beautifully simple. Lansky's couriers take the Masia's "black money"—profits from illegal activities—to secret bank accounts in Switzerland, where the money is "washed clean in the snow of the Alps," as the joke goes. What happens is that middlemen in Europe take the money out of the accounts and route it back to the states through various devices such as mortgages and loans. This "clean money" is then used for legitimate investments. There is no way to find out the ultimate source of the money because it can be traced back only to the Swiss banks, and they won't divulge the names of depositors.

Occasionally, however, there is a rent in the veils concealing the underworld's money-laundering operations, providing a glimpse of the faces of the men behind them. And law enforcement officials are not surprised to find that many of the faces are easily recognizable as close friends and associates of the crime boss.

In early 1967, for example, a group of gangsters tried to defraud the Chase Manhattan Bank of almost \$2 million, using the Exchange Bank of Geneva, Switzerland, as a cover. The fraud was uncovered before the money was transferred to the Geneva bank, and an immediate investigation was launched that ultimately resulted in an indictment of the bank as a co-conspirator in the caper.

The investigation revealed that the Swiss bank had served as a "laundry shop" for Malia money for years. It was also discovered that the bank was owned by a group of Americans. The two principal owners were New York brassiere manufacturers with clean records. But other owners included Edward Levinson, the former Las Vegas casino operator who works for the Lansky syndicate, and Benjamin Siegelbaum, another Lansky associate.

PP VER that he was given a sentence fifty years in prison.

Dewey thus eliminated some of the Syndicate's must powerful leaders, but in an indirect way we did the organization a favor. By compelling many of the remaining leaders, rather parochial at first, to leave New York, he forced them to spread their operations and make the Syndicate truly national.

Lansky, for one, built a whole new empire in muthern Florida and the Caribbean by imitating the Cleveland group, particularly in the use of tribes to secure the cooperation of police officials

and politicians.

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How well the bribes worked was dramatized in the Kefauver Committee hearings several years later. Walter Clark, sheriff of Broward County, Florida, from 1933 to 1952, admitted, for example, that he not only provided "special policing" for Lansky's illegal gambling establishments but also deputized the men who drove armored cars carrying cash from easinos to the bank.

With Florida secure, Lansky went on to Cuba in 1937 to see what he could do about expanding his operations to the island. He found a willing listener in Fulgencio Batista, the former army sergeant then in power, and the two made plans for turning Havana into a playground for the rich. World War II, however, put an end to this initial effort. "There weren't any boats on the seas," Lansky later told the Kefauver Committee. "You can't live from the

Cuban people themselves."

Duting the war Lansky played a key rôle in one of the strangest deals in which the U. S. government has ever been involved—Operation Underworld. The full story has never been told. But as it was outlined during the Kefauver hearings, Naval Intelligence decided that it needed the help of the Mafia to protect East Coast shipping from sabotage. Lucky Luciano was the only man who could arouse the Mafia to such service, but he was still in prison—

and not likely to be feeling patriotic.

The Navy turned to Luciano's attorney, Moses Polakoff, who promised to talk to his client. But he said he needed someone with him whom Luciano would trust—Meyer Lansky. For several months Polakoff and Lansky visited Luciano regularly, and ultimately got some kind of agreement from him. Luciano owed Lansky a big favor and was undoubtedly happy for the opportunity to pay him back. When Luciano was trying to rise to the top of the Mafia, Lansky made room for him by having one of his men kill the then head of the group, Jalvatore Maranzano.)

How much Luciano's cooperation contributed to the nation's welfare is still a military secret, but it retainly contributed to Luciano's welfare. Lucky paroled at the war's end and allowed to return his native Italy, on the condition that he wouldn't min set foot in the Western Hemisphere.

In exile Luciano continued to influence the Syn-

dicate, but act leadership passed to a triumvira that included Joe Adonis, Frank Costello, an Meyer Lansky. At this time, however, Lansky rinto a series of problems that kept him from enjoing his new prestige. First, his ally Fulgencio Batis failed to hold the presidency in Cuba, and Lanshad to postpone his plans for developing Hava to his liking.

Second, his personal life got quite complicate Right after the war, Lansky met Thelma Schwar a manicurist at a New York hotel, and decided marry her. But he was already married to t former Anna Citron, the mother of his children, he had to persuade Anna to give him a divorce at to allow him the companionship of the three ch dren. Finally, to add to his problems, Lansky's c friend Bugsy Siegel was causing trouble for the Sy dicate. He was spending too much of its money build the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas. And he wignoring advice and getting involved in a faction struggle for control of the wire service supplying bookies with racetrack information.

These infractions were not serious enough themselves to warrant severe action, but Siegel we showing the kind of growing independence at recklessness that threatened the subtle organization that men like Lansky were building. So, early 1947, Syndicate leaders met in a Havana hotel sui with Lucky Luciano, who had sneaked back temp rarily from Italy, to decide what to do about Bugs What transpired is not known, but it is certain the Lansky, a man who would not hesitate to put it organization above loyalty to an old friend, we along with the decision reached at the meeting.

On June 20, 1947, Siegel was sitting in the Bever Hills home of his mistress, Virginia Hill, when to steel-jacketed slugs from an army carbine to through the window and into his face. One slusmashed the bridge of his nose and drove into helft eye. The other entered his right cheek, passe through the back of his neck and shattered his vetebra. His right eye was later discovered on the

dining room floor 15 feet away.

The Flamingo Hotel, which had gotten Sieg into trouble, started paying dividends the very di he was shot. Lansky, one of the original twenty-or investors, got back the \$62,500 he had put up mar times over. And so did other Syndicate leaders. The went on to build bigger and better hotels an easinos and to make even more money, thanks i large degree to the ill-fated Bugsy. For it was Sieg who had awakened them to the gold in Las Vegyears before, when all they could see there was san In the end however, it didn't help him much.

ith most of his problems now solved
Lansky worked feverishly to take according hundreds of new operations all over the country

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He started real estate compant in several states; set up jukebox distribution of the Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York; opened a string of new casinos that stretched from Miami, Florida, to Saratoga, New York, and bought into several television manufacturing and servicing companies,

The money from all these ventures came rolling in with such speed that even Lansky had difficulty counting it. Records show that two of his illegal casinos in Florida—Greenacres and La Bohème brought in \$1.6 million during one four-month

period in 1949 alone.

Then in 1950 the Kelauver Committee turned the spotlight on Lansky, and America caught a glimpse of his power for the first time. The heat the committee generated forced officials in Florida and New York to shut down his casinos and to make noises about sending him to prison. He was indicted for ganibling violations in both states, and an effort was started to have him deported. But in the end he served only a three-month sentence in New Yorkthe first and last time Lansky ever went to jail.

When he got out, he headed for Cuba to revive his dream of turning Havana into a gambling paradise. His old friend Batista, who had won back the presidency in 1952 with Syndicate financing,

gave him free reign.

Lansky turned Cuba into a gambling monopoly for himself and selected Syndicate friends. He had a law passed which allowed gambling only in hotels worth \$1 million or more, and proceeded to build the only hotels that would qualify. To safeguard his employees, he had Cuban immigration regulations adjusted so his dealers, pit bosses, and stickmen would be classified as "valuable technicians."

During this period the ruling triumvirate in the Syndicate began to break up. First, Joe Adonis was deported to Italy, and then Frank Costello was persuaded to retire, not because of old age or poor health, but because of overexposure. He was too well identified with crime to remain the leader of the kind of organization the Syndicate was becoming. (Shortly afterward Costello was replaced as head of the Masia as well. He did not protest either demotion and was allowed to go on living.)

As soon as he became the primary force in the underworld, Lansky began instituting a number of changes that enabled the Syndicate to penetrate deep into the economic life of America. He curtailed the practice of buying up small companies through friends and relatives. Such men always turned out to be more loyal than competent, and the businesses never got very far. Instead, he started sending Syndicate money to numbered accounts in Europe, where authorized middlemen would take it and lend it to American executives in quick need of capital. "Some of the biggest land acquisitions have been financed with Syndicate money from Europe," says a Securities and Exchange Commission official.

To represent the Syndicate in the sophisticated businesses it was fill acing, Lansky began recruiting bright young men with no links to the underworld, and training them in the art of being invisible, which he has perfected. These men will be the inheritors of power in organized crime, making the job of law enforcement officials in the future even more difficult than it is now. "At least the old bunch had records and we knew them," says one police official. "It will take us years just to identify this

new button-down breed. And some we'll probably

never know."

he admiration Lansky won for his innovations was slightly tarnished in 1959 when he lost Cuba to Fidel Castro. Lansky flew out of Havana the same day as Batista, but he left his brother Jake behind to see if he could arrange a deal with Castro's men. Not only did the Cuban revolctionaries refuse to play ball, but they kept Jake hostage for twenty-five days before letting him return to Florida.

Lansky was so angry he called a meeting of the Syndicate board and persuaded it to put up a \$1 million price on Castro's head. It was partly this bounty that worried U. S. officials when Castro later visited New York for a UN session and refused to abide by security restrictions. But the concern was unnecessary. By that time Lansky had withdrawn the bounty. Never a man to live in the past, he had become resigned to losing Cuba and was already focusing on the Bahamas.

In 1963 a plush new hotel, the Lucayan Beach, was built in Freeport on Grand Bahama Island by a group of companies under the control of Wallace Groves, an ex-convict who settled on the island twenty years ago. Just before the Lucayan Beach was finished, Groves won permission from the Bahamian government to open a casino in the hotel.

Soon after it opened, the casino was running with professional efficiency worthy of the best gambling parlors controlled by Lansky in Las Vegas. And with good reason. The men in charge turned out to be three longtime Lansky associates—Max Courtney, Frank Ritter, and Charles Brudner. Another key operative was Dan ("Dusty") Peters, a Lansky courier of long and loyal service, who was observed making frequent trips to Miami Beach for meetings with Lansky.

Then in 1966 it was revealed that some of the highest officials in the United Bahamian Party had received secret payments from several companies controlled by Groves. Sir Stafford Sands, then minister of finance and tourism, actually got some \$1.8 million.

Sands later acknowledged to a Commission of Inquiry that Lansky had offered him \$2 million in 1960 to permit gambling on Grand Bahama, but said he turned the gangster down. The \$1.8 million

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he received from the Groves companies, he insisted, was for "consultant and legal fees."

The revelations toppled the United Bahamian Party from power. Sands left the Bahamas for a castle he owns in Spain, and Lansky's men were expelled from the islands by the new party. Fear of Lansky's continued influence in the Bahamas has remained strong, however, so that when one of the new managers of the Lucayan Beach casino was observed fraternizing with Lansky in Miami Beach recently, the present operators of the casino quickly dismissed him.

With the heat on in the Bahamas, Lansky turned his attention to the growing number of casinos that were opening in England, Europe, and the Middle East. In England, for example, hundreds of small casinos and several large ones were launched after Parliament permitted gaming under certain conditions in 1960. It was not surprising then that Lansky's man Dino Cellini showed up as manager of the Colony Club, a posh casino in London's Berkeley Square, after being kicked out of the Bahamas.

Cellini was followed by another old Lansky friend, George Raft. The actor's associations with underworld figures go back to his pre-movie days, when he was associated with Owney ("The Killer") Madden. His trip to Hollywood was financed by the mob, and it was he who introduced Bugsy Siegel to Hollywood society in the late 1930s. Over the years Raft has been a front for a travel agency in California and a supermarket in Arizona. And he worked for Lansky at the El Casino de Capri in Havana, ostensibly as an entertainment director, until Castro closed the place down.

Both Cellini and Rast were expelled by British authorities, and the Colony Club closed down, but their departure in no way ended Lansky's interest in English casinos. He merely turned to less identifiable fronts recruited from the local gentry. At present Lansky is known to control at least five major casinos in England, mainland Europe, and the Middle East, and to be shopping around for others.

Lansky does not seem concerned about the drive against organized crime being mounted by the Justice Department in places like New Jersey. This may be due to the confidence he has that he can weather such storms, or it may be due to feelings attributed to him by a Miami underworld figure who says he knows Lansky well. "Lansky and a lot of other guys are banking on the fact that Florida seems to be President Nixon's favorite state, a place he likes to visit a lot and where he has a lot of friends. If the spotlight was turned on down here, it would make New Jersey look like small potatoes, and a lot of guys figure Nixon is not going to let that happen."

The Justice Department is not forgetting Lansky, however. It has beefed up its task force on organized crime in Miami, and has sent one of its better agents to head it. One of the primary targets of the task

force is Meyer Lansky. The gang leader was more than a little surprised upon returning to Miami recently from an underworld conference in Mexico to find himself being arrested for possession of drugs without a prescription. The charge has served notice on the crime boss that he is not going to be lest alone to savor his millions:

At an age when several of his old partners in crime are selling their interests in the Syndicate, setting up trusts for their children, and retiring, grateful to have the chance to die of natural causes. Lansky is still scanning the world for new outlets for Syndicate activities. He has more money than he can use, and at present has very little opportunity to enjoy it. He has reached the top of the ladder unscathed, while the closest friends of his youth ended up behind bars, deported, or executed in gangland killings. Why doesn't he cash in his chips and retire?

The only answer that seems to make sense is that he thives on the challenges that go with being in the vanguard of organized crime. Just as his former idol Bugsy Siegel always had a secret yen to be a movie star, Lansky always wanted to be a powerful business executive. In a thoroughly unorthodox manner, he has achieved his goal. He sees the Syndicate as a huge corporation whose growth and profits depend on his efforts. The new generation of Syndicate members with Brooks Brothers suits and degrees in accounting look to him for guidance. Henry Ford and Andrew Carnegie could not give up the risks and challenges of a lifetime at sixty-five, and neither can Lansky.

He spent most of his life trying to reach a position where he could really play the big executive—developing plans for vast new enterprises around the world, making decisions that involve millions. The official files on Lansky indicate that he has extorted, robbed, and murdered to get where he is, and he just can't give it all up now, even though he can never enjoy the great wealth he has amassed as long as he goes on. Meyer Lansky, a victimizer of men and laws for half a century, is himself a victim of his own dream.









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#### Lausky Hotelman

#### Named in Probe

#### Of Profit Skimming

By MARGARET CARROLL
Herald Stall Writer

Meyer Lansky, one of the nation's top racketeers, and Miami Beach hotelman Morris Lansburgh are central figures in a Miami federa Grand Jury's investigation of casino profit-skimming in Las Vegas.

Lansky, investment genius for organized crime, was the \$200,000 middleman when the Flamingo Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas was sold to Morris Lansburgh and other investors in 1961,

LANSKY, Lansburgh, and one of Lansburgh's old Flamingo partners, hotelman, Samuel Cohen, and two other prersons, are getting the prime attention of the jury and the Justice Department's Grganized Crime Division, according to an affidavit and pleadings filed by the government in conjunction with the jury probe.

. Besides profit skimming, an illegal method of hiding taxable earnings, the jury is investigating charges of interstate transportation of stolen or converted property.

The other two headliners on the grand jury agenda are Chester Simms, former casino manager for the hotelmen, and Sam Belkin, former Flamingo employe.

Although it's been known that U.S. officials have been checking on profit-skimming allegations since last year, the filing of the papers was the first time that Lansky was publicly linked to their probe.

THE INVESTIGATION is limited to casino operations during the 1931-67 period when the Lansburgh-Cohen, group was in control.

Joe Eaton during an immunity proceeding for Léo Samelson, once a Flamingo employe.

Samelson, it was learned Monday, was the second person to get immunity from prosecution in return for testimony to the Grand Jury.

The first was Bernard Cohen, manager of the Flamingo's New York office when Internal Revenue Service agents raided it last year.

THE IRS scooped up hordes of documents and later said Cohen accepted converted securities that had been shipped interstate. U.S. officials say the securities were gambler's IOUs that had been removed from the Flamingo casino to New York for under-the-table collections.

At the immunity proceeding for Samelson, Judge Eaton was informed that the Grand Jury was investigating "a conspiracy to defraud the U.S. . . . by Morris Lensburgh and others."

Other Justice Department material produced in court said that Samelson's testimony was vital in regard to "possible violations" of income tax law and interstate shipment law violations by "Samuel Cohen, Morris Lansburgh, Sam Belkin, Meyer Lansky, and Chester Simms."

Lansburgh, who runs Miami Beach's Eden Roc and the King's Inn and Golf Club in Freeport, appeared before the Grand Jury this May. He declined comment afterward.

Lansky, whose Prohibition partner the late Bugsy Siegel, built the Flamingo, was closely watched in the early 1960s when the federal government had an intensive, but not very productive,

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FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Report of

Date:

AUG 2 7 1970

Field Office File #:

92-102

Title:

MEYER LANSKY

Character:

ANTI-RACKETEERING

Synopels:

Subject continues to reside at Apartment 16B, 5001 Collins Avenue. Subject known to have traveled to Seattle, Washington on 6/25/70. Subject returned to Miami on 6/29/70

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#### DETAILS:

The subject continues to reside at Apartment 16B, 5001 Collins Avenue, Miami Beach, Florida. The subject was observed in usual spots by Bureau agents during the months of March, April, and May.

On July 25, 1970, the Seattle FBI Office advised that the subject was noted at the Winthrop Hotel, Seattle, Washington, and thereafter traveled

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Miami, Florida

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bile:

The subject returned to Miami on June 29, 1970.

The Seattle Office advised that no illegal activities were noted by the subject while in the Seattle, Tacoma Division.



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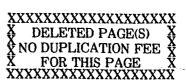
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FEDERAL GUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FD-263 (Rev. 12-19-67) OFFICE OF ORIGIN REPORTING OFFICE MIAMI MIAMI 1/4/71 8/5/70-12/28/70 TITLE OF CASE REPORT MADE BY HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXC WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE Miami report of SA 8/27/70. MIAMI At Miami, Florida: Will follow and report subject's activities through observations. ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED TALS RECOVERIES CONVIC AUTO. FUG. PENDING OVER ONE YEAR XXYE PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS SPECIAL AGENT DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW APPROVED COPIES MADE: - Bureau (92-2831) - New York (INFO)(92-4611) (Meyer Lansky Group) 2 - Miami (92-102) Classified by SPIGSKIOMS 3 JAN 8 1971 Declassify on: OADR Notations Dissemination Record of Attached Report. Agency OC. TAU, Criminal Division. Request Recd.

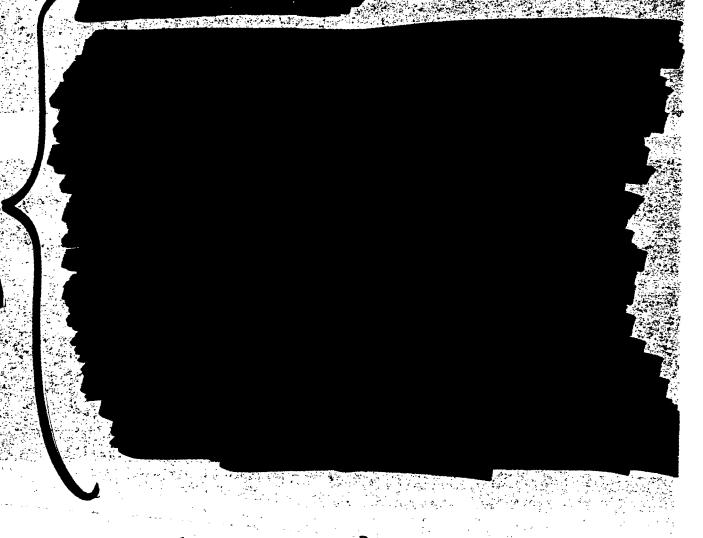
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MM 92-102

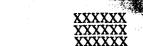
#### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

A copy of this report is furnished New York as they are origin of Meyer Lansky Group.

It is noted investigative period for this report is lengthy, however, it has been kept in a pending status. Investigative period predates that of previous report to include information not available at time of last report.



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FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)



#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Copy to:

670

Office: Miami, Florida

Report of: Date:

1/4/71

Rureau File # 02-2021

Field Office File #:

92-102

Title:

MEYER LANSKY

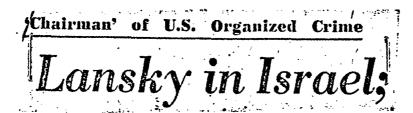
Character:

ANTI-RACKETEERING

Synopsis: Subject presently residing in Israel. Newspaper articles set forth.

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DATE 315184 BYSPIGSKIOMS
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May Become Citizen



Meyer Lansky · 'seeks respect'

#### By JAMES SAVAGE Herald Staff Writer

Meyer Lansky has been living in Israel for the past four months, and some experts believe the "chairman of the board" of U.S. organized crime may never return to this country.

Lansky and his wife. Thelma, have been based in Tel Aviv and traveling in the resort areas of Israel since July, and there are unconfirmed rumors that he soon will apply for Israeli citizen-

#### ALTHOUGH the

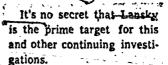
would neither confirm for deny the rumors about Lahsky becoming an Israeli citizen, a federal source in New York said veteran Lanskywatchers expect him to stay . in Israel.

If Lansky, 67, does remain in Israel, his voluntary exile from the United States would rank with the year's most ' significant events in the continuing war against organized crime, state and federal mob experts told The Herald.

"With a federal grand jury in Miami scrutinizing his past financial dealings in Las Vegas, and his sensitivity to the continuing publicity he's receiving, Lansky has little to look forward to here," a state agent'said.

Internal Revenue agents working with federal prosecutors from Los Angeles have been presenting information for several months to a special Miami grand jury.

THE INVESTIGATION has revolved around the payment of gambling debts by Las Vegas gamblers who had credit accounts and paid off after taking junket trips to the Flamingo Hotel and Casi-.no, federal sourceorsaid.



Lansky probably could not be extradited back to the United States from Israel on Internal Revenue income tax charges if the current grand jury probe leads to indictments, The Herald was told.

Lansky's other worry. sources told The Herald, is the immunity squeeze that has led to the jailing of several top echelon New York

Mafa leaders.

Jerry Catena, Angelo Bruno and other top Mafia dons have chosen to go to jail rather than testify after the government granted them complete immunity from prosecution in New York.

ONCE GRANTED complete immunity, a witness cannot refuse to testify under the Fifth Amendment, which guarantees freedom from self-incrimination.

Faced with the immunity dilemma, Lansky like the others would face jail for contempt of court or the unpleasant prospect of answering all of the government's questions under oath about his career in crime.

The continuing national publicity that Lansky has received during the past year, (Reader's Digest, described him as "public enemy No. 1,") has also taken its toll.

It's known that Lansky has been upset by the continuing publicity and the public exposure he received a few months ago when he stood trial and was acquitted here on a drug charge.

"LANSKY has reached t point in life where he was more than anything else be treated with respect a left alone. He knows h never find that living Miami Beach," an agent sa

Lansky still maintains condominium apartment the Seasons South, 5001 ( "lins Ave., Miami Beach. wife has returned alone fr Israel at least once to att to his private business her

A number of Lansky as ciates, including his brot Jake Lansky, Hymie Sie Harry Stromberg and Yi Bloom have made pilgrin es to Israel to visit Meyer since July.

Another associate, gam Al Mones, moved to Is last month immediately a he was indicted here on g bling charges. He is curre listed as a fugitive by FBI.

LANSKY associate rac eer Joseph (Doc) Stacher permitted to move pe nently to Israel in 1964 : he was convicted on inc tax charges. He escap five year prison term promising to move to Isr.

Agents here believe trusted associates have him informed of his farinterests and have serv personal couriers.

Federal agents have mated Lansky's persona tune in secret num Swiss bank accounts total as high as \$300 mil

# Lanskys 'Love' Israel

But Won't Say

How Much

#### Special To The Herald

TEL AVIV — Visiting American mobster Meyer Lansky "loves" Israel, according to his wife Thelma, but she refused to say how long he intends to stay here or if he plans to return to the U.S.

Lansky, who has been visiting here on a temporary visa since July, occupies a luxurious suite in the seaside Dan Hotel.

The hotel is one of a chain owned by the so-called Miami group of Israeli investors which includes Samuel Friedland and Max Orovitz.

Lansky, whose role as the American underworld's top inancial wizard has been the



Meyer Lansky ... a luxury suite

subject of national publicity, is currently under investigation by a federal grand jury, in Miami. THERE has been widespread speculation that he intends to sell his condominium apartment on Miami. Beach and live permanently in Israel.

. Lansky himself was unavailable for an interview. but his wife did consent to speak frankly about the couple's current stay in this country. She skillfully dodged questions about her husband's reported decision to apply for Israeli citizenship and to take up residence in the Jewish state. Under Israel's unique "law of the return," no Jew can be denied entry or citizenship here. Exceptions have been made, though, in cases involving persons wanted abroad on criminal charges, but then only by direct order of the Ministry of the Interior.

## "We live just like you or anyone else — maybe more quietly — and we have nothing to say to any newspaper."

-Mrs. Meyer Lanksy

MRS. LANSKY said in the interview she had not slept for 24 hours: "I just got in off a plane — I'm terribly tired."

She refused to talk of her husband's present activities or future plans. "You must understand our position," she said. "Our privacy is being invaded, and we are entitled to some."

Despite the Lanskys' eflorts to stay out of the limelight, their presence here has not gone unnoticed in the lighter press. One report published in an afternoon tabloid. told of Lansky having spent some time chatting with Israeli Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir. When the cabinet official told him about Israel's terms for foreign investors, Lansky was quoted as saying: "Are you kidding? You're the real Mafia..."

A spokesman for the Finance Ministry promptly denied the story.

MRS. LANSKY broke her restraint only when asked about how she and her husband feel about Israel.

"I'm sure that Mr. Lansky

loves Israel as I do. I was here several months ago and came back — I must like it. You don't come back to a place you don't like, do you?"

Many of the features of the U.S. commonly associated with persons whose careers parallel Lansky's are absent in Israel. Gambling casinos, racetracks and other betting enterprises are banned by law. The only legal game of chance played on a large scale in this country are the state lottery and "Supertoto," a weekly soccer pool. However, Lansky may have a certain amount of non-financial credit with some Israeli higher-ups if it is true that he has donated generously to various Jewish philanthropies.

ACCORDING to some published reports, Lansky has business interests in nearby Lebanon — a country to which one cannot travel directly from Israel but which can be reached easily by two one-hour flights using Cyfrus as the transfer point.

Mrs. Lansky would not say swhere she and her husband have been going, who they have been seeing or how they have been spending their time while in Israel.

"We have nothing to offer The Herald, The Times or anyone else," she said.

"We live just like you or anyone else — maybe more quietly — and we have nothing to say to any newspaper." On these grounds, she said it would be "ridiculous" for Lansky to give an interview.

Commenting on the spate of news copy generated since she and her husband were reported by The Herald to be applying for Israeli citizenship, Mrs. Lansky said: "All these write-ups are so ridiculous and take up so much space and time in the papers that it's just utterly ridiculous."

# Investor Quizzed

Jon Casino

Skimming



By MARGARET CARROLL

Barald Staff Writer

A former bank president and bigtime Miami Beach hotel investor was quizzed recently by federal officials about any hidden interests he or mobster Meyer Lansky may have had in Las Vegas casinos.

Rubin Zerlin, of 700 Northshore Dr., Miami Beach, who has been an equity investor in such hotels as the Deauville, appeared before a special federal Grand Jury in Miami, as the government, expanded its many-faceted, probe of how millions of untaxed dollars left Vegas.

THE FUNDS reportedly wound up in numbered bank accounts in Switzerland — a popular depository for U.S. mob money slated for investment in this country.

After he took the Fifth Amendment 17 times, Zerlin was granted immunity from prosecution by Federal Judge William Mehrtens and told to testify to the secret panel.

The Grand Jury and two U.S. Justice Department at tdineys, Robert S. Thalle

and Michael A. DeFeo, are opncentrating on casino profit-skimming at the Flamingo Hotel in the 1960s.

Prime target of the investigation is Lansky, who is believed to be the investment brain for organized crime. He is now in Israel, where he may apply for citizenship.

LANSKY WAS paid a finder's fee when the Flamingo Hotel and Casino in Vegas was sold to Miami Beach hotelmen Morris Lansburgh and Samuel Coben and other investors in 1960.

A partial transcript of the Miami Grand Jury proceedings revealed that the IRS believes that "millions of dollars yearly were omitted from the unreported income of the Flamingo Company" for about seven years.

The questions asked Zerlin revealed for the first time that the Grand Jury is also looking into possible violations of a law that prohibits the use of the U.S. mail to distribute the proceeds of an illegal gambling operation. (A Las Vegas gambling operation would be illegal, even though licensed by the state if undisclosed owners or unterported income were involved.)

BESIDES THE mail law and tax-dodge allegations, the Grand Jury also is checking on whether extortion was used to collect any gambling debts farmed out to other cities from Vegas.

Zerlin, president of Nilrez Equity & Capital Inc., which paid \$3.2 million for a luxury high-rise apartment building earlier this year, was told the jury's specific interest in him was any knowledge he had of

was any knowledge he had of where any skimmed profits ended up.

He took the Fifth Amendment to the following quesions but presumably answered in secrecy before the Grand Jury after he was immunized:

• "WHAT WAS the nature of your ownership interest in the Flamingo Company" from 1960 to 1967?

G "HAS IT ever come to your attention—from any

source that Sam Cohen and Morris Lansburgh held ownership interests in the Flamingo Company in trust for other undisclosed owners besides yourself, including Meyer and Jake Lansky?"

Zerlin was also asked if he was aware that Bernard Cohen, who managed the Flamingo's New York office, "delivered the proceeds of collections of gambling debts to Morris Lansburgh and Chester Simms, one-time Flamingo casino manager.

DeFeo asked Zerlin if he lever caused any of the skim med funds to be delivered to the Lansky brothers or to be deposited in Swiss banks.

Zerlin, once president of the Miami National Bank, was one of several persons who received immunity for testimony that the government believes may show possible violations by Lansburgh, Cohen, Lansky and others.

Lansburgh — who runs the King's Inn and Golf Club its Freeport — appeared before the Grand Jury in May.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1862 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 GFR) 101-11.4

UNITED STATES GOVE VIMENT

Memorandum



TO

DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE:

1/11/71

FA)

LEGAT, TEL AVIV (166-NEW) (P)

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SUBJECT:

MYER LANSKY

ITAR

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Additionally, the Ambassador, U.S. Embassy, Tel Aviv, recently expressed concern that subject resides on the street where the Ambassador's residence is located.



EY-721

(3) - Bureau (1 - Foreign Liaison Desk) 2 - Tel Aviv

EX-110

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Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

235,2

- Foreign Liaison Unit

SAC, Miami (92-102)

REC- 83 Director, FBI (92-2831) -

MEYER LANSKY

Enclosed for the information of the Miami offi two copies of letter from Legat, Tel Aviv dated 1/11/71, the contents of which are self-explanatory.

Enc. (2)

1 - New York (For info) - Enc.

1 - Legat, Tel Aviv

MAILED 9 JAN 19 1971 COMM-FBI

U. S. DEPT. UF JUSTICE

Tolson Sullivan Mohr \_ Bishop . Brennan, C.D. Callahan \_ Casper Conrad Gale .

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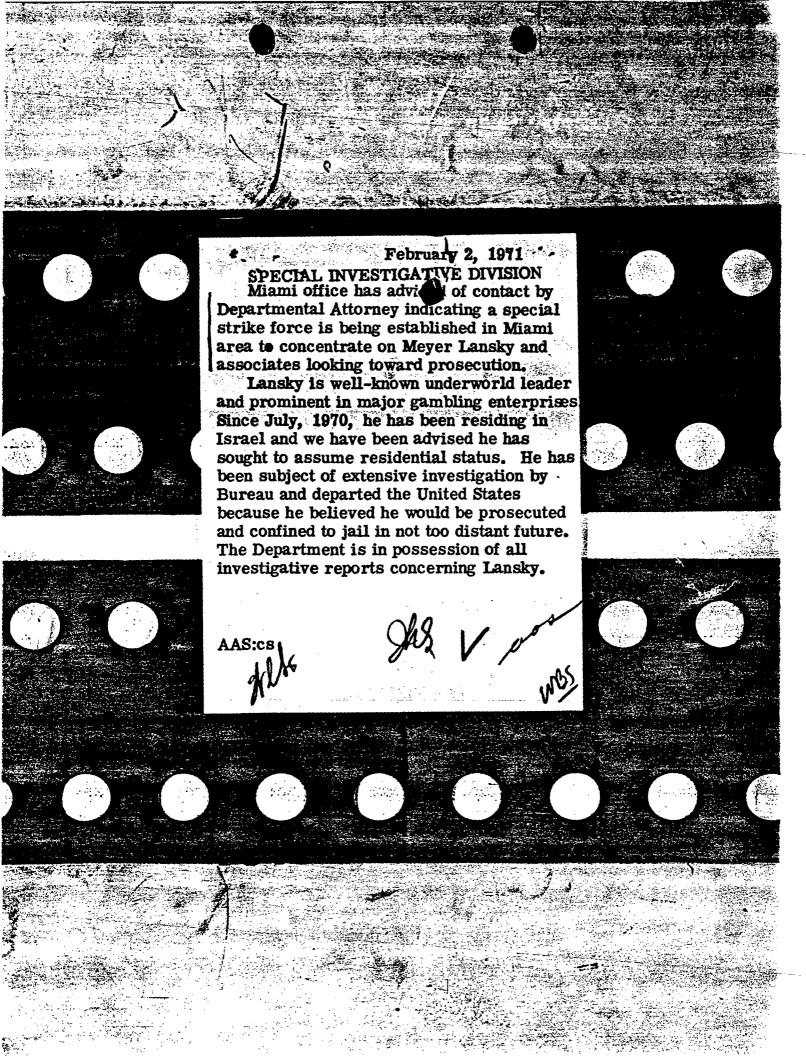
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Upon receipt of this memorandum or further instructions, a letterhead memorandum will be submitted to the Bureau for dissemination to Legat, Tel Aviv, requesting investigation in that area.



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIO COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

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TO DIRECTOR (92-2831)

FROM MIAMI (92-182)

ANTIRACKETEERING

MEYER LANSKY. AKA, AR.

THE MIAMI OFFICE WAS RECENTLY PAID A VISIT BY DEPARTMENTAL

ATTORNEY R.J. CAMPBELL, WHO STATES DEPARTMENT SETTING UP SEPARATE TASK FORCE IN MIAMI FOR PURPOSE INVESTIGATING LANSKY AND HIS ASSOCIATES. HE ADVISES HIS GROUP IS INTERESTED IN ASCERTAINING ACTIVITIES OF LANSKY IN ISRAEL. CAMPBELL SETTING UP TASK FORCE HERE WITH TWO FULL TIME ATTORNEYS IN ADDITION TO HIMSELF.

MIAMI STRIKE FORCE ATTORNEY IN CHARGE DOUGALD MC MILLAN ADVISED ONE INSTANT HE IS NOT AWARE OF SEPARATE TASK FORCE ASE STATED ABOVE AND HAS NOT BEEN ADVISED OF THIS BY HIS SUPERIORS AT SEAT OF GOVERNMENT. ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

ABOVE FURNISHED FOR INFORMATION

END

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AEUD SULLIVAN

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Mr. Casper

Mr. Soyare

Tele. Room Miss Holme Miss Gand

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_	Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies), was/were forwarded to them for direct response  Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); as the information originated with them. You we be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.
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		TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (92-2831)	
State of the state		FROM: SAC, MIAMI (92-102) (P)	
		MEYER LANSKY, aka	
		AR OO:Miami	
		Re Bureau airtel to Miami 1/19/71 and	*
		Legat, Tel Aviv, letter to Director 1/11/71.	<b>D</b> //
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		Enclosed herewith are two copies of an article	
		by NICHOLAS GAGE entitled "The Little Big Man Who Laughs a	ıt
		The Law. This is a seven-page narrative article concerning subject, which is being left to the discretion of the Bure	ng /
		- to thether to enclose with TRM for Tagat. Israel	
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#### U CRED STATES DEPARTMENT OF USTICE

#### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

92~102

Miami, Florida February 5, 1970

#### RE: MEYER LANSKY

Records of United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, New York, New York, revealed that MEYER LANSKY was born on July 4, 1902 in Grodno, Poland. The records further show that LANSKY entered the United States under the name of MEYER SUCHOWLJANSKY aboard the "SS Kurek" at New York, New York, on April 4, 1911, and was admitted as a permanent resident. On September 27, 1928, MEYER LANSKY was naturalized in United States District Court, Eastern District of New York, at which time he changed his true name to MEYER LANSKY.

Subsequently, United States Attorney, Southern District of New York, instituted denaturalization proceedings. The charges against LANSKY were dismissed May 28, 1958 due to a lack of prosecutive evidence.

LANSKY commenced his criminal career during the 1920s in New York City as a muscleman in the alcohol wars which ensued as a result of the Prohibition Era and at that time was a member of the Owney Madden Bootleg Gang. He was associated in the New York criminal organization of LOUIS LEPKE BUCHALTER and BENJAMIN "BUGSY" SIEGEL. The "Bug and Meyer Mob" expanded rapidly from New York to Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and California. As early as 1938, LANSKY was described as the head of the organized racketeer syndicate with headquarters in New York City. Among other activities of this syndicate was the "muscling" of all large professional gambling activities throughout the United States.

In the late 1930s, LANSKY, with BUGSY SIEGEL, became interested in gambling in the Las Vegas area and during that

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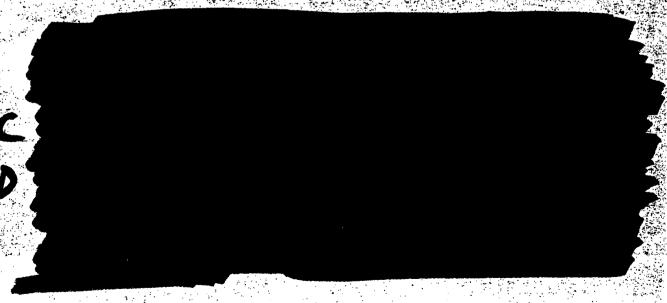
92-2831-1193

#### RE: MEYER LANSKY

period LANSKY along with SIEGEL, FRANK COSTELIO, JOE ADONIS, and remnants of the AL CAPONE Gang in Chicago controlled all forms of gambling in Las Vegas. From 1946 to approximately 1950, LANSKY along with his brother, JAKE LANSKY, and VINCENT ALO were actively engaged in the operations of gambling casinos in the South Florida area. Subsequent to the shut-down of these casinos, LANSKY moved his business of operations to Havana, Cuba, where he was the acknowledged leader of organized casino type gambling in Cuba under the BATISTA Regime.

It was widely known in organized crime circles that no American gambler, gangster, or racketeer could work in Havana without LANSKY's approval. JAKE LANSKY became the casino boss at Havana's most luxurious place, The Hotel Nacional.

Subsequent to the fall of the BATISTA Regime in Cuba in 1958, the new communist regime of FIDEL CASTRO threw out LANSKY and all other Americans connected with gambling casinos.





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RE: MEYER LANSKY

On March 4, 1970, pursuant to a search by United States Customs Agents after disembarking from a flight from Acapulco, Mexico, to Miami, an unlabeled pastic vial containing 154 tablets subsequently identified as donnatal was found in LANSKY's briefcase. Donnatal is a mild sedative having anti-spasmotic/anti-cholinergic properties used for nervous indigestion, etc.

On March 27, 1970, officers of the Florida Department of law enforcement arrested MEYER LANSKY pursuant to a violation of a Florida Statute which provides that no person may possess any prescription drug unless the prescription is obtained by a valid prescription given by a doctor. LANSKY was charged with both a felony and a misdemeanor under this statute. The maximum penalty under the felony would have been two years imprisonment, \$1,000 fine, or both, and the misdemeanor maximum penalty was six months and/or a \$500 fine.

On June 18, 1970, the Dade County, Florida, Trial Judge directed a verdict of acquittal for LANSKY stating that the State has failed to prove the material allegations and this is vital to the prosecution.



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•	92-2831-1193 page 5

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#### RE: MEYER LANSKY

The following is a physical descriptim of MEYER LANSKY:

Name Address Race Sex Height Weight Hair

MEYER LANSKY 5001 Collins Avenue Miami Beach, Florida White Male . f 5'54" 140 Pounds prown/gray
Brown Brown/gray Eyes
Date of Birth
Place of Birth
Scars
FBI Number

Brown
Grodno, 1902
Left shoulder from operation
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1 - Foreign Liaison 2/17/71

(1) REC-10 92-2831-1193

To: LEGAT, Tel Aviv - Enc. (7)

From: Director, FBI

MEYER LANSKY

AR

00: Miami

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCENUMERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

Re Legat let 1/11/71.

Enclosed are three copies of an LHM 2/5/71 setting forth background information on Lansky and his criminal record. Also enclosed are two copies of an article which appeared in "The Atlantic" magazine in July, 1970. Two photographs of Lansky are also enclosed.

63 67C

The article by Nicholas Gage contains several inaccuracies and is being made available to you as an example of the publicity and reputation involving Lansky. You should, of course, make it clear to anyone to whom you may desire making available a copy of this article that the FBI does not youch for its authenticity or reliability.

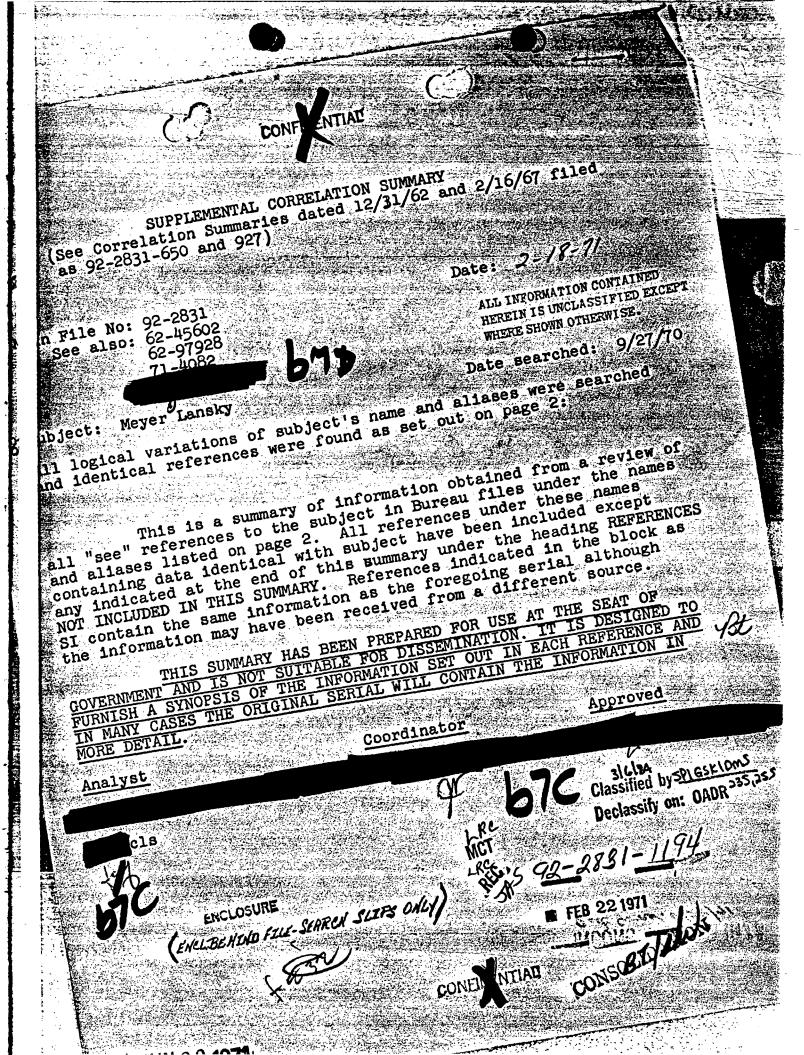
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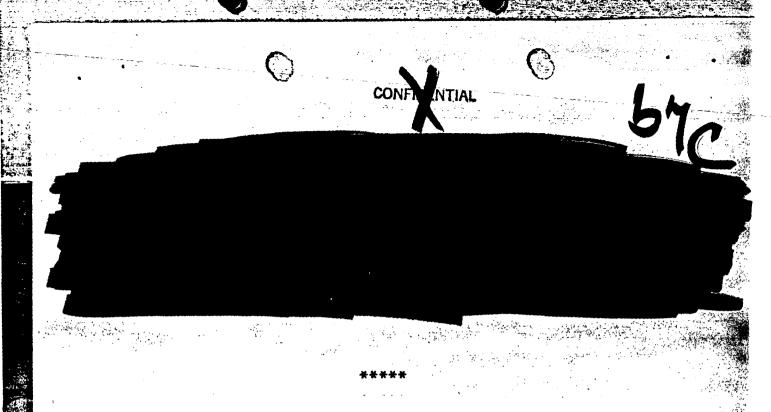
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DLansky, Meyer S. OLansky, Meyers CLansky, Myer OLansky, Myles OLansky, Socks OLaysky, Meyer OLazansky, Meyer <sup>©</sup>Leiberman, Meyer OLensky, Meyer Olieberman, Meyer Clieberman, Morris Meyer, The Bug Meyer, Bugs OMeyer, Bugsy OMeyer, Little OMeyer, Little Meyer OMeyers, Bugs OMeyers, Buggs OMeyers, Bugsie Meyers, Bugsey Meyers, Bugsy OMeyers, Bugzie Myers, Bugs OMyers, Bugsy OSuchowlansky, Meyer OSuchowljansky, Maier <sup>©</sup>Suchowljansky, Meyer OSuchowltansky, Meyer O Suchowltansky, Myer

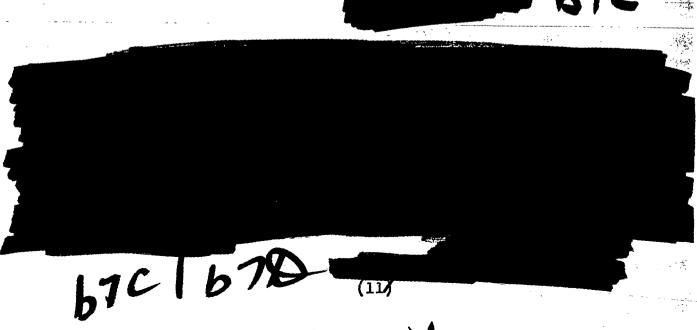
#### **ABBREVIATIONS**

.CN.....La Cosa Nostra

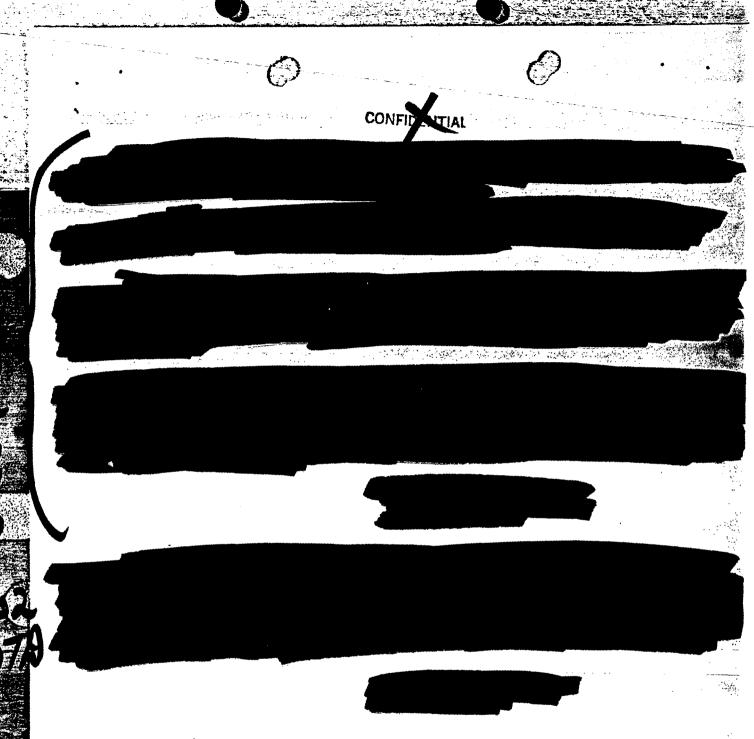




The "New York Times," dated 7/1/59, in an article entitled, "Inquiry Ordered On Title I Award" revealed that Louis Pokrass, head of the Tele-King Corporation, 855 Sixth Avenue, NYC, described by Robert F Wagner, Mayor, City to New York, as a former business associate of Frank Costello, had been selected as a sponsor of a Title I slumclearance project. The article further revealed that in 1951 Costello told the Kefauver Senate Crime Investigating Committee that he (Costello), Joe Adonis and Meyer Lansky, all notorious racketeers, were associated with Pokrass as investors in the Consolidated Televisio Company.



CONFINANTIAL



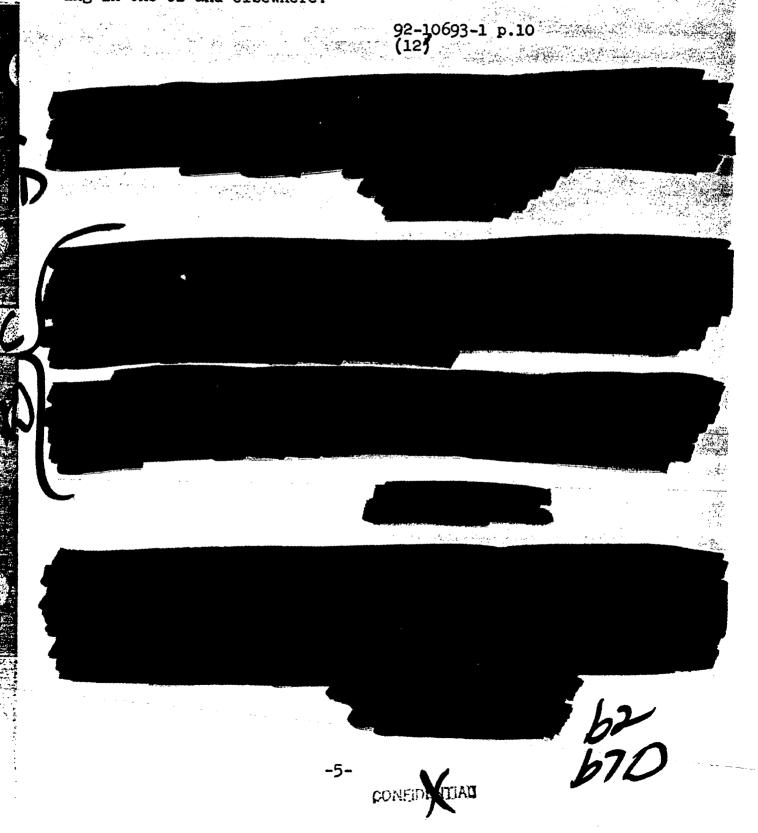
The New York Post" issue of 4/27/66, recorded the following concerning the entertainment invention Scopitone, of French origin, concerning which a Federal Grand Jury has been digging into the background of the American manufacturer, and distributors. Scopitone is an electrical device that bears the same relationship to the jukebox that television does to radio. The grand jury interest has apparently been heightened by some of the names involved in the American distribution of Scopitone. They are names that command respect in the underworld. Among them are Gerardo (Jerry) Catena, Meyer Lansky, Vincent (Jimmy Blue Eyes) Alo and Thomas (Tommy Ryan) Eboli."

(continued)

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It was noted that it was well established that Catena, Lansky, Alo and Eboli were among the most influential personalities in racketeer ing in the US and elsewhere.







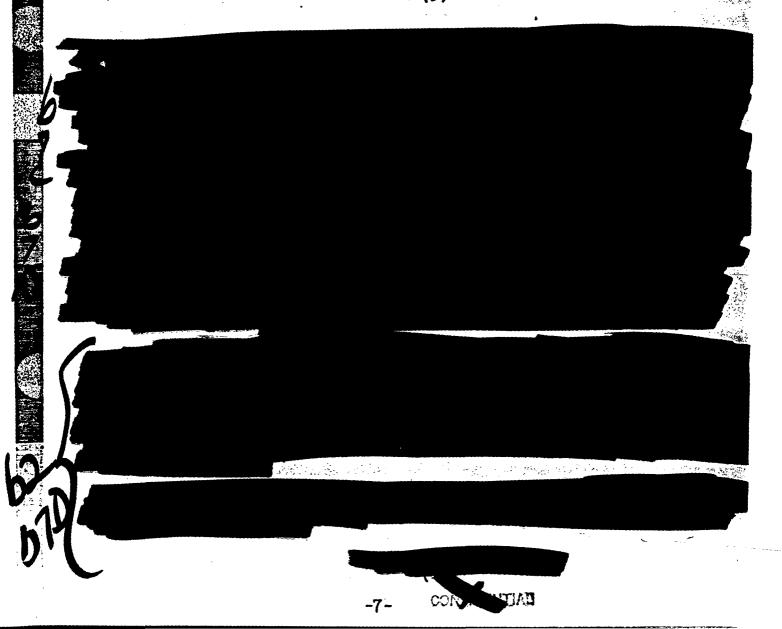
	Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.
7	Deleted under exemption(s) <u>b2 b7c b70</u> with no segregable material available for release to you.
	Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
]	Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
	Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies), was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.
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J	For your information:
Z)	The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  92-2831-1194 page 6

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A Bureau memo enclosed pages from the "Congressional Record" (66-1731) dated 3/8/67, which set out on pages H2294-H2307 information regarding a statement by Congressman Paul A. Fino (R) New York, indicating he requested the Chairman of the Banking and Currency Committee to take under consideration the possibility of a committee inquiry into the relationship between American persons and financial institutions. He included an article from the "Saturday Evening Post" of 2/25/67, entitled "The Mafia: Shadow of Evil on an Island in the Sun" which commented on the activities of Meyer Lansky and his brother, Jake. The article stated "Federal agents estimate that at least a million dollars a month flowed back to the Mafia in the US through Lansky."

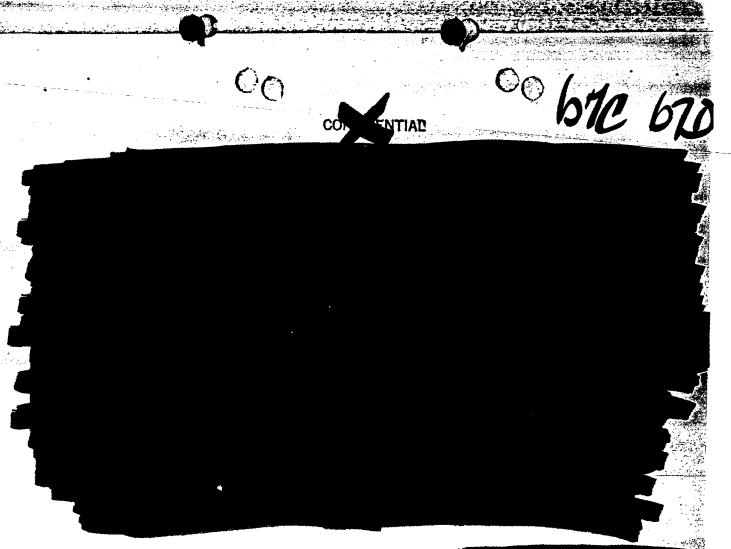
"Congressional Record" enclosed 66-1731-3041 p.2





_3	Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.
Þ	Deleted under exemption(s) b2 b7C b7D with no segregable material available for release to you.
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On 4/3/69, SAs observed and an unknown individual together in Miami Beach. This group went to the Diplomat Country Club and shortly thereafter, Meyer Lansky was also observed at that Club.

On 4/4/69, an attorney with the US Justice Department in Miar authorized issuance of subpoenses requesting the appearance before the Federal Grand on 4/9/69. Also served with a subpoens was Lansky. On 4/9/69 these individuals all appeared before the Federal Grand Jury and took the 5th Amendment on all questions asked them.

The 4/9/69, issue of the "Chicago Sun-Times" contained an ar which indicated that the Grand Jury inquiry in Miami was apparently directed toward John Pullman, who was at that time in Lausanne, Switzerland. Pullman was believed to be the banking expert for syndic mobsters specializing in hiding their money in coded Swiss bank accoun This article also stated that Pullman was reportedly a bootlegging associate of Lansky during the prohibition era.

-11- 67C







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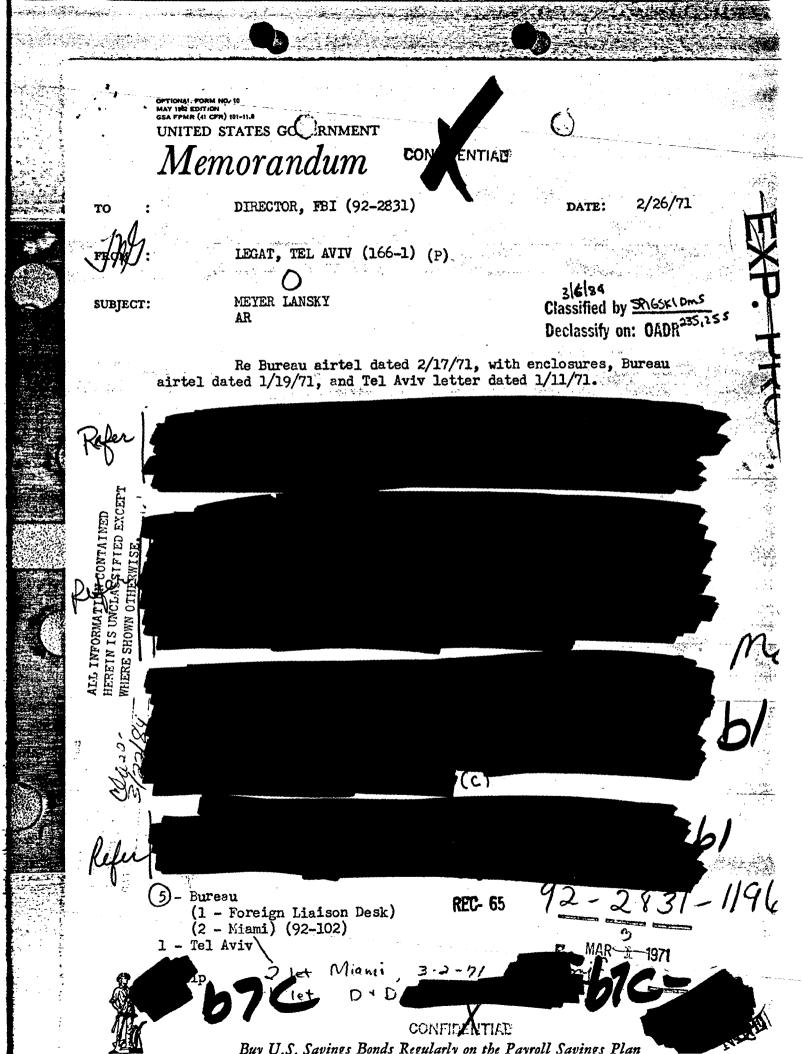






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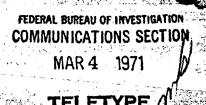






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TELETYPE /

TRANSMITTED IN CODE

URGENT 3/4/71

TO DIRECTOR

FROM LEGAT TEL AVIV NRØ23

MEYER LANSKY, AR, 166-1, BUFILE 92-2831.

PARAPHRASE IE DISSEMINATED

Mr. Tolson Mr. Sullivan\_ Mr. Mohr

Mr. Bishop

Mr. Brennan C Mr. Callahan.

Mr. Casper... Mr. Conrad ... Mr. Dalbey\_

Mr. Felt. Mr. Gale. Mr. Rosen

Mr. Tavel. Mr. Walters.

Mr. Soyars. Tele. Room

Miss Holmes Miss Gand

ON MARCH FOUR NINETEEN SEVENTYONE SUBJECT SERVED SUBPOENA BY EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICER TO APPEAR MARCH TEN NEXT, MIAMI, FLORIDA. BEFORE U. S. GRAND JURY PROCEEDINGS. SUBJECT COMMENTED TO EFFECT THAT EARLY DATE OF MARCH TEN WAS "UNFAIR". HE DID NOT STATE WHETHER OR NOT HE WOULD HONOR SUBPOENA. BUT INDICATED HE WOULD PROCEED TO EMBASSY UNKNOWN DATE IN FUTURE TO OBTAIN GTR AND EXPENSE MONEY FOR TRAVEL.

92-2831-11

ANY SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS LEARNED WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE BY CABLE.

1146AM ELR

3 MAR 9 1971

airtel miami and ce Newyork

3RD CC: MR. DA'

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EX-117

To: SACs, Miami REC-4

From: Director, FBI (92-2831) - 1/97

MEYER LANSKY ANTI-RACKETEERING

By teletype dated 3/4/71, Legat, Tel Aviv has advised: On March 4, 1971, subject served subpoens by Embassy consular officer to appear March 10, next, Miami, Florida, before U. S. Grand Jury proceedings. Subject commented to effect that early date of March 10 was "unfair." He did not state whether or not he would honor subpoens, but indicated he would proceed to Embassy unknown date in future to obtain GTR and expense money for travel

For information.

TELETYPE UNIT[

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DATE 3/5/84 BY SPI 65 KIDMS







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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 1 11971 NOW

TELETYPE

Ir Freson Mr. Poliven Mp. Mist Victor

Mr. BrennanCl Mr. Callahan

Mr. Casper.... Mr. Conrad...

Mr. Dalbey. Mr. Felt

Mr. Gale 🕨

Mr. Rosen.... Mr. Tavel

Mr. Valters.

Mr. S yars

Tele. Room... Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

nh

NR 011 MM PLAIN

847PM NITEL 3-11-71 CLS

TO DIRECTOR 92-2831

FROM MIAMI 92-102 1P

Anti-Racketeering
MEYER LANSKY, AKA; AB.

REBUAIRTEL FIFTH LAST.

U. S. District Court, Southern District of Florida,
HEARING HELD USDE, SDF, MIAMI, WITH MOTION TO QUASH

SUBPOENA SERVED ON LANSKY FOR HIS APPEARANCE TENTH LAST BEFORE Federal Grand Jury USCH, MIAMI.

JUDGE C. CLYDE ATKINS UPHELD ISSUANCE OF SUBPOENA AND ORDERED LANSKY TO BE IN MIAMI ELEVENTH INSTANT.

LANSKY FAILED TO APPEAR IN MIAMI THIS DATE.

67D

ABOVE FOR INFORMATION.

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ACK YOR MESSG NUMBERS 022 011 .

KPT FBI WASH

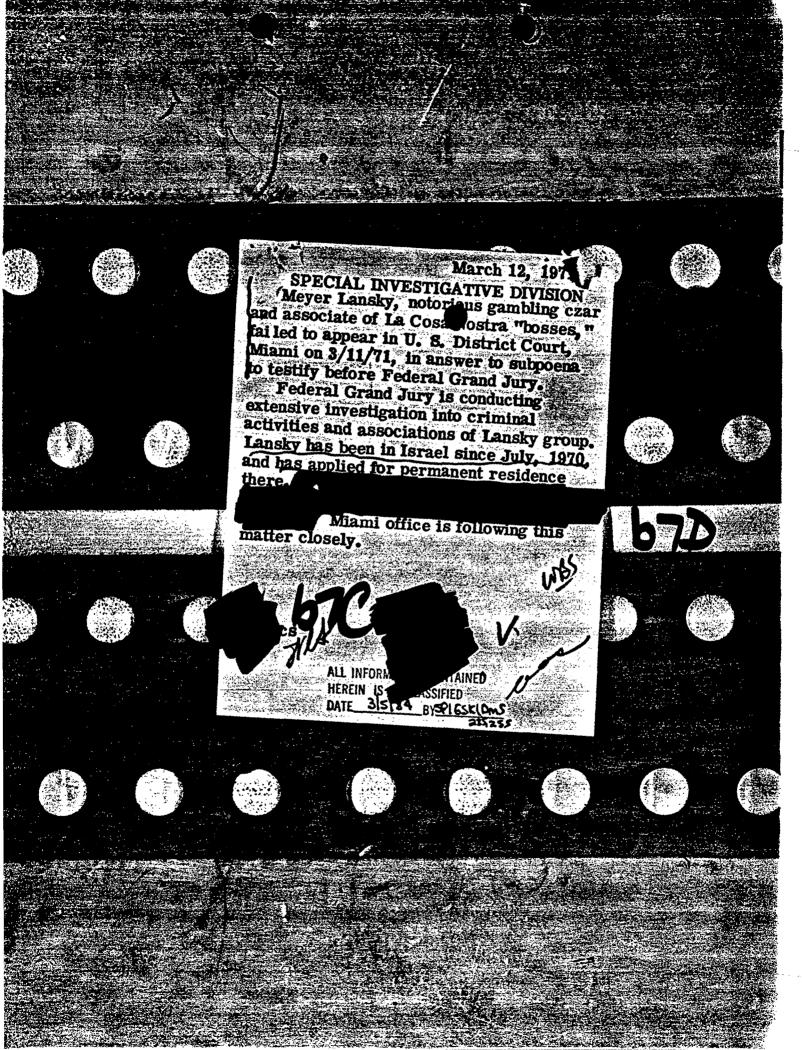
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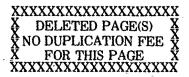
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×	The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  92-2831-1201 (  page)  92-2831-1202 (2 pages)	

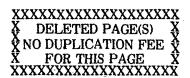
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(Dispatched March 18, 1971)

Mr. Casper Conrad Walter Mr. Soyars Tele. Room

Miss Holme

Miss Gandy

Mr. Callahan

Exclusive:

Special Justice Dept. Strike Force Created To X-Ray Organized Crime by Tracing Lansky's Mill By Victor Riesel

Washington: -- There is no more agile artful dodger than Meyer Lansky reputedly the underworld's investment counselor; allegedly the financial consort of old Murder, Inc.; reportedly the "connection" between the combine, of which the late Vito Genovese was boss of bosses, and the mon who bankroll the "other" mobs.

There have been reputable estimates that Meyer Lansky is worth the equal of the Kennedy family fortune -- about \$400 to \$500 million. But the specialists scoff. They say be's a poorer multimillionaire -- about \$35 million. What does he do with his money? Where did he make it? Why did he know virtually all the gory characters of a grim underworld? Is he really their financial wizard? he truly the combination's specialist in infiltrating legitimate business?

Is this gentle, 68-year-old, grandfatherly "little man", who hasn't touched s gun in 40 years, if ever, the nearest thing to an untouchable, a national Mr. Big? Or is he just a real estate operator, an angle guy, a New York businessman who retired to Florida and hit some lucky jackpots?

That's all uncertain. But there is one very definite thing about Mayer Lansky -- he is the first man, to my knowledge, ever to rate a full-fledged, special Justice Dept. coordinated anti-crime strike force all to himself.

There are 17 federal strike forces. The first began in Buffalo, N.Y. The last one set up shop some weeks ago in Kansas City, Mo. They are geographic. The Lansky strike force is subject-oriented. It operates out of Washington. It is headed by a razor-sharp special attorney. And it has its full complement of Internal Revenue agents -- for it is digging deeply into Mr. Lansky's financial empire.

This strike force operation is a phantom force. Its operatives don't report to any one city at any one time. They are, for example, watching the Miami Grand Jury which had Lansky subpensed in Tel Aviv about two weeks ago. He was requested to show at 9:30 a.m. in Miami on March 11.

Of course he didn't. He rarely does. And why should he? He's a tourist now, some 8,000 miles distant. But that grand jury is only one of the strike force's tools. It also is seeking his connections and possible monies "earned" from the old Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas.

However, that's just a probe into alleged skimming. The phantom strike force here wants to unravel Lansky's intricate books; his holdings, his hotels, Diffilitis real estate developments; his connections with Wall Street operations, with nome labor leaders and with the units of organized crime.

If this can be done, if his holdings -- in trucking; in transportation, even of old; in mines; in factories; in the juke box business; the television set production and distribution field, just to name a few endeavors -- can be traced to the beginning, the Justice Dept. may, for the first time, get to the hard core of "the organization."

Victor Riesel -- Spe Justice Dept.

as Lansky. Or as capable of producing million of dollars instantaneously. Not too long ago he was negotiating with a French firm for rights to a jukebox-TV combination.

The French businessmen said, fine, but really can you produce, what about putting up \$5 million as a guarantee? Lansky left quietly. The next day he tossed a banker's check for \$5 million on the table. It was drawn on a Swiss bank. Bundreds of millions of dollars could be at his fingertips.

If he wants money he does not need to call conferences as would some others of the combine to parcel out pieces of the action. He has it. And he is the one who can go to a politico, be it in Nassau, B.W.I., or any major American city, and say this is what you will get, this is your cut -- and the money will come.

Across his quiet path have come men such as Carlos Marcello of Louisians, allegedly a member of the crime combine's National Commission, old Frankie Costello, the late "Dandy" Phil Kastel, and mobsters so powerful that they've been able to keep their anonymity through the years.

Lansky, who has been in everything from coal mining to electronics and lush gambling houses, has worked in tandem with the 66-year-old Vincent (Jimmy Blue Eyes) Alo of a posh Manhattan, West Side street just off Fifth Ave. Jimmy Blue Eyes is in the combine once headed by Vito Genovese. Which means that there is deep influence in some unions, much business, considerable politics and heavy investments.

The word from the wise is that if you want to make a connection with the Mafia combines you get to Lansky to get to Jimmy Blue Eyes. If you want to make it from the other side you get to Alo and he sits down with Lansky and the meet is made. It could be in an East 41st St. spot in New York or somewhere in San Francisco or Geneva, Switzerland.

Vincent Alo (according to such dedicated probers as New York State Senator John Hughes, head of the Joint Legislative Committee on Crime) took over from Frankie Costello as the reported "coordinator" of the national syndicate.

So the anti-crime strike force, devoting itself to just one man and his millions, may yet hit pay dirt. And we may yet understand the nature, in depth, of that crawling thing called organized crime.

(All Rights Reserved)

PEDERAL BUREAU DE INVESTIGATION COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Tele. Room

Miss Holmes Miss Gandy.

NRØ12 MM PLAIN

611PM NITEL 3-24-71 CLS

TO DIRECTOR 92-2831

FROM MIAMI 92-102

MEYER LANSKY. - FUGITIVE. AR.

TITLE OF THIS COMMUNICATION IS CHANGED TO ADD FUGITIVE STATUS.

LANSKY INDICTED BY FEDERAL GRAND JURY, MIAMI, FLORIDA,

THIS DATE FOR VIOLATION SECTION FOUR ZERO ONE, TITLE EIGHTEEN, U. S. Code

USO, FOR CRIMINAL CONTEMPT OF FEDERAL GRAND JURY, MIAMI.

TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS BOND RECOMMENDED. ARREST WARRANT NATIONAL CRIME INFORMATION

ISSUED THIS DATE. SUBJECT BEING ENTERED NOTC.

END

HOODXX HOLD

015 007 009 017 012 ACK FOR YOUR NR'S

GMV WAASH DC FBI AND HLD

MAR 30 1971

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MR. SULLIVAN FOR THE DIRECTOR

CG: MR. CLIE

SAC, Miami (92-102)

FBI (92-2831) /205 REC- 79 Director, FBI

MEYER LANSKY, aka

**FUGITIVE** 

Re Miami teletype 3/24/71.

Referenced teletype advises warrant issued 3/24/71, If not already done, Miami immediately submit FD-65.

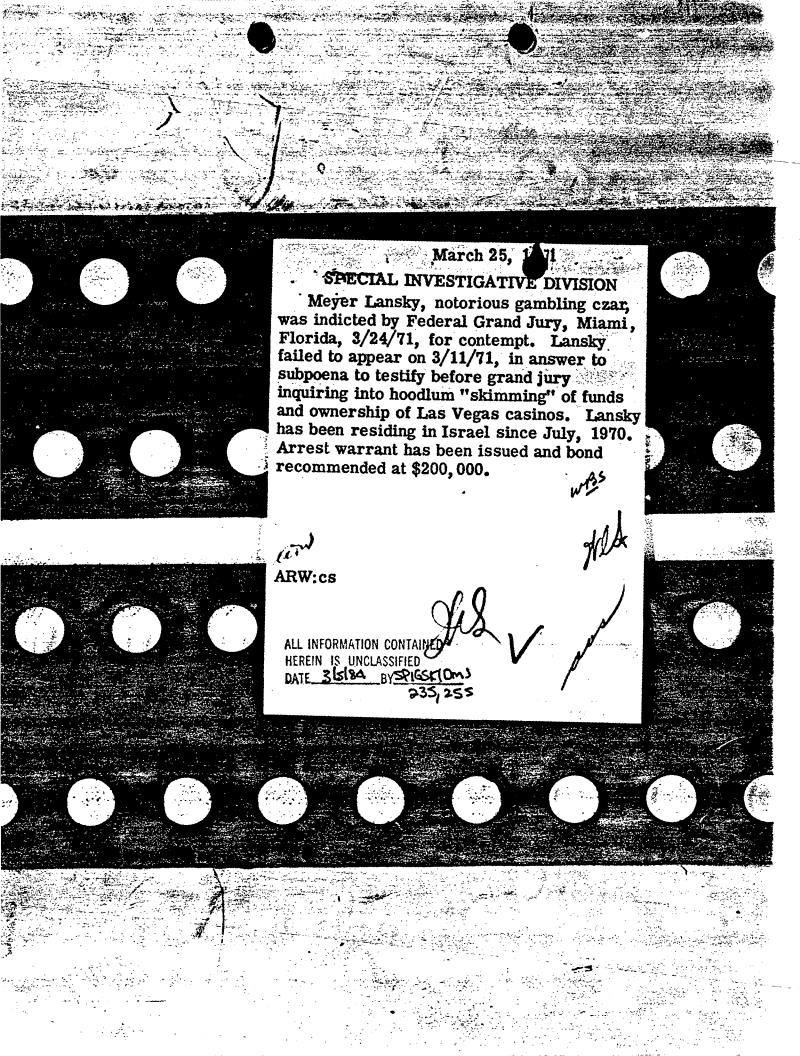
Since available information indicates Lansky in Tel Aviv, Israel, if not already done, Miami furnish letterhead memorandum for Legat, Tel Aviv. Also furnish Washington Field Office information to in Passport Office. Department of State. If not already done, you should also consider contacting the U.S. Attorney regarding restricting subject's passport for return to U. S. only. If this type action is desired, the U. S. Attorney desiring prosecution of subject should direct a letter to Director, Passport Office, Department of State, Washington, D. C. This letter should contain description of subject, brief statement of charges and enclose a certified copy of the Federal complaint and warrant or indictment and warrant,

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 315184 BYSP16501



F1+65 (Rev. 12-24-70) Continues reader one 19 UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT INSTRUCTIONS - Reverse side *Aemorandum* Director, FBI (92-2831)3/30/71 Att: Special Investigative Division K | Initial Submission MIAMI (92-102) Supplements FD-65 dated Photograph not needed YER LANSKY. aka Indicate following: FUGITIVE [ ] Racial Militant New Left ANTI-RACKETEERING Other Security background None of these MKE Name Caution NAM Sex SEX Race MEYER LANSKY Birthplace NAT Birth Date DOB Height HGT Weight WGT Hair 516" Grodno, Poland FBI No. FBI Eves Visible Scars, Marks, Tattoos, etc. 791 783 By NCIC Fingerprint Classification Brown FPC Other Identifying Number MNU Social Security # Operator's License Number OLN Operator's License State OLS Year Expire Offense Charged OFF Criminal Contempt of Federal Grand Jury, Miami Florida Title 18, Section 401 U. S. Code, Title and Section .. DOW F. O. File # Warrant Issued By U.S. District Court, Miami, Fla. on Date PBV or Bond Default Case Referred to Office \_ 92-102 Miscellancous Fingerprint Classification (Henry Syste ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 315184 BYSPIGSKIOMS LICENSE PLATE AND VEHICLE INFORMATION LIC State LIS Year Expires License Plate Number LIY License Plate Type Vehicle Identification # VIN Year VYR Make VMA Model VMO Style VST Color Aliases Meyer the Bug, Bugsy Meyer, The Additional Identifiers Bug, Little Meyer, Myer Lansky, Meyer Lazansky, Korris Lieberman, Bugs Meyer, ST-115 Meyer Suchowltansky, Johnn Eggs, Meyer Suchowlansky 川ところ 9 APR 1 1971

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

- 1. Caution (MKE) Insert "C" in block if caution statement indicated. Basis for caution statement must appear in Miscellaneous block, e.g. armed and dangerous.
- Name (NAM) Place name in this block. Aliases are not to be entered in this block but are to be placed in Aliases block.
- 3. Sex (SEX) Sex will be designated by one letter, M (male) or F (female). ...
- Race (RAC) Race will be described by one letter, W (white), N (Negro), I (Indian), C (Chinese), J (Japanese), O (all other). Mexicans who are not definitely Indian or other non-white should be described as "W".
- Birthplace (NAT) Indicate city and state or, if foreign born, city and country. Where multiple birthplaces are reported, list verified birthplace or that which appears most logical in this block.
- Birth Date (DOB) Enter as month, day and year. Where multiple birth dates are reported, enter verified birth date or that which appears most logical in this block. Place other dates of birth in Additional Identifiers block
- 7. Height (HGT) Express in feet and inches, e.g., 6'0". Round off fractions to nearest inch.
- 8. Weight (WGT) Express in pounds. Omit fractions.
- Heir (HAI) Color hair to be described as BK (black), BR (brown), BN (blond or strawberry blond), RD (red or auburn), WH (white), GY (gray or partially gray), SN (sandy), XX (unknown), OO (bald). (If hair present and balding, code hair color and enter "balding" in Miscellaneous block).
- 10. Eyes Indicate color of eyes.
- 11. Visible Scars, Marks, Tattoos, etc. (VSM) Place in this block only appropriate NCIC coding for visible scars marks, tattoos, birthmarks, deformities, missing body parts and artificial body parts as defined in NCIC Operating Manual. If more than one VSM is to be entered, use Additional Identifiers block for additional appropriately coded items. Use Miscellaneous block to describe all scars, marks, tattoos, etc. which are not defined in the NCIC Operating Manual and to more fully describe VSM's which have been entered in VSM block. For example, an appendectomy scar, not being readily visible, would be described in the Miscellaneous block. A tattoo on right arm, shown as TAT R ARM in VSM block, might be further described in Miscellaneous block as a rose tattoo on inside of lower right arm.
- 12 HCIC Fingerprint Classification (FPC) Enter NCIC fingerprint classification.
- 13. Other Identifying Number (MNU) Miscellaneous numbers may be entered with appropriate identifiers (prefixes) as shown below. For first miscellaneous identifying number, use MNU block. When military service number is in fact Social Security Account Number, the number should be entered in both MNU and SOC blocks. Additional identifying numbers are placed in Additional Identifiers block. The identifier (prefix) should precede the number and be separated from the number by use of a hyphen.
  - AF Air Force Scriel Number
  - AR Alien Registration Number
  - Army Serial Number, National Guard Serial Number or Air National Guard Serial Number (regardless of State)
  - CG U. S. Coast Guard Serial Number /
  - MD Mariner's Document or Identification Number
  - MC Marine Corps Serial Number
  - MP Royal Canadian Mounted Police Identification Number
  - **NS** Navy Serial Number
  - PP Passport Number
  - PS Port Security Card Number
  - \$5 Selective Service Number
  - VA Veterans Administration Claim Number
- 14. Fingerprint classification (Henry System) The Henry System fingerprint classification is to be placed in this block, when available. Do not enter in NCIC.
- 15. Social Security Number (SOC) Place subject's Social Security Account Number in this block.
- 16. Operator's License Number Place subject's openOrshitonse number in OLN block. Also show licensing state (OLS) and year license expires (OhY) was a Constant of the Const state (OLS) and year license expires (OhXILVOILSEANI TVIDALLE AUISIAIG

  17. Warrant Issued By-On-(DOW). In Escaped Federal Riseas onter and AMARIA DOW block.

- 17. Warrant Issued By-On-(DOW). In Escaped Federal Propagations cases enter uncount Annual DOW block.

  18. Miscellaneous (MIN) track delitional pertinent information in this block. If charles statement used, basis for statement must be set food Sid first tem in this block.

  19. License Plate and Vehicle Intermittion Third linguished in Contact of the possession of subject in appropriate blocks under License First and Vehicle in addition heading.
- 20. Additional Identifiers a Enter information concerning additional license plates (number, state, year expires, and when applicable, typic); Select Secretify Sumbers; o erator's license number, state and year expires; vehicle information (VIN, VYR, VMO, VST, VCCO; MSD) (15 p. 18 p. 19 p.

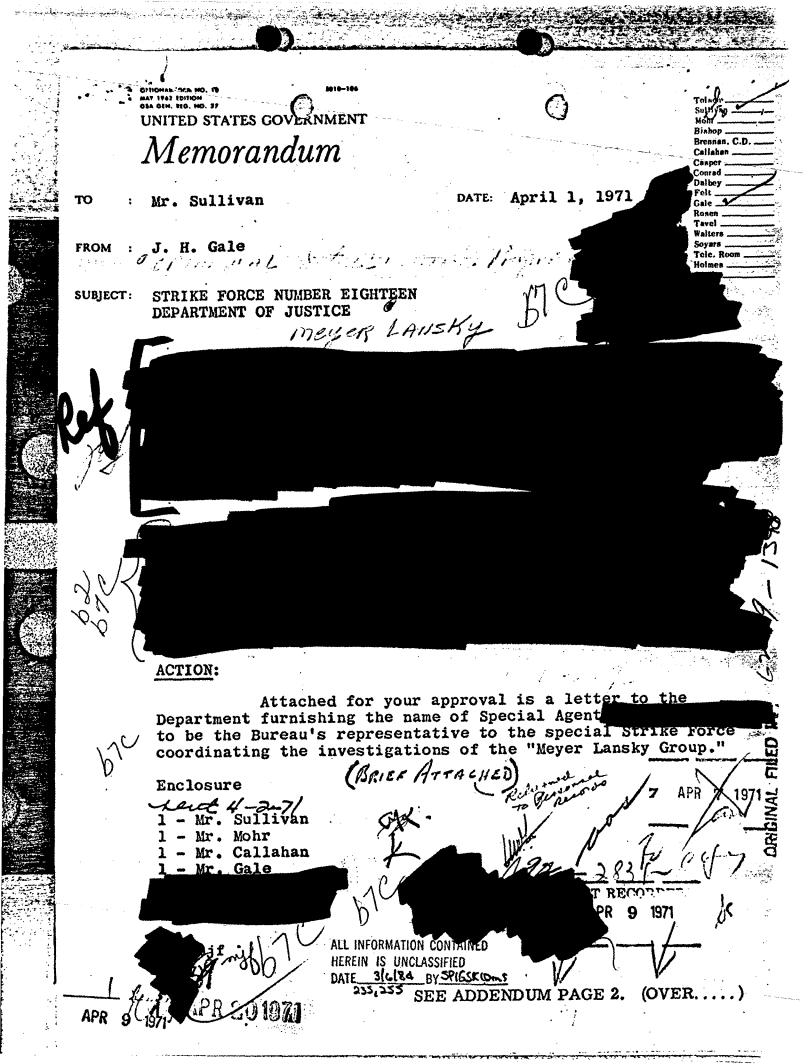






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### ADDENDUM OF W. B. SOYARS, JR. 4-2-71 WBS:crt

The Department is establishing a new Strike Force in Washington, D. C., to investigate financial dealings of Meyer Lansky and associates and a Bureau representative is requested. The Director has previously approved our assigning to Strike Forces operating in the field a supervisor who follows the activities of the Strike Force, maintains liaison, protects Bureau interests, etc.

by Mar

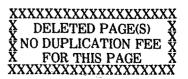


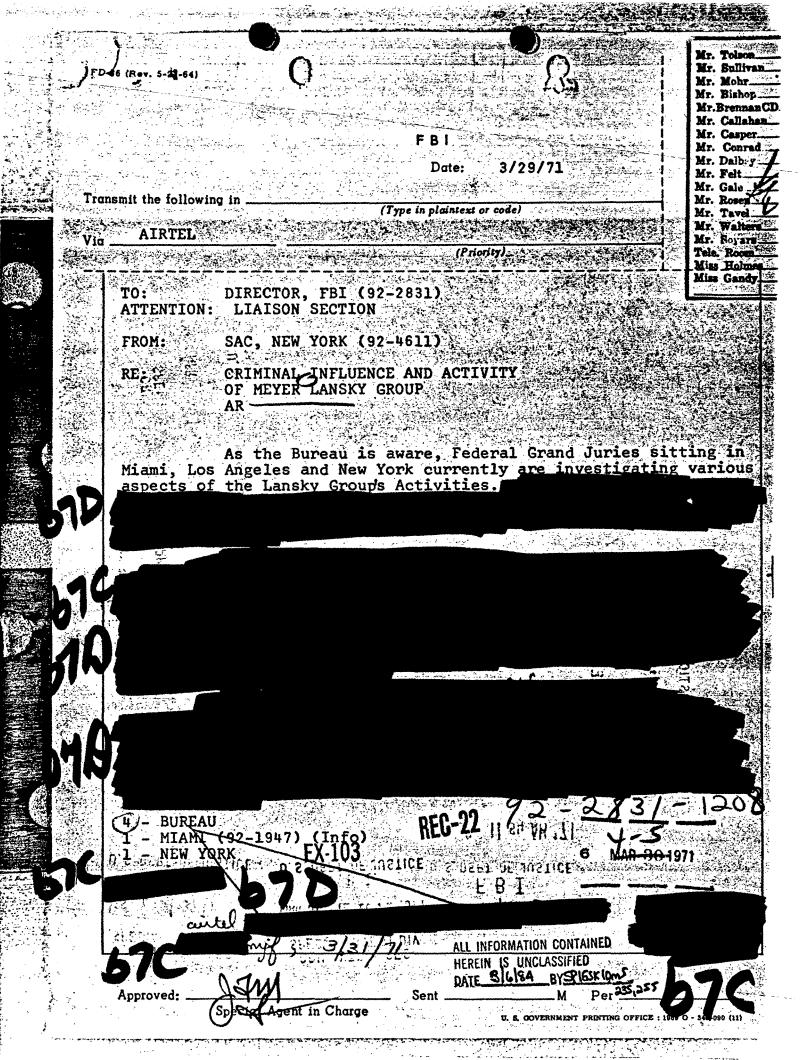




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EX-103

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o: (

om: Director, FBI (92-2831) 1268

CRIMINAL INFLUENCE AND ACTIVITY OF MEYER LANSKY GROUP ANTI-RACKETEERING

Re New York airtel 3/29/71.

Re airtel, two copies of which are enclosed for your information,

It would be most helpful to the Lansky investigation, and possibly other important investigations, if you can handle this matter in manner New York has requested. If this can be accomplished within the scope of your working agreements

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Afford preferred attention and advise Bureau accordingly.

Enclosures (2)

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DATE 3/6/84 BY SPIGSKIDMS

Fp.36 (Rev. 5-22-64)	
	FBI
Transmit the following	Date: 4/1/71
Via AIRTEL	(Type in plaintext or code)
FROM:	Director, FBI (92-2831)  SAC, Miami (92-102)(P)  (date)
SUBJECT:	MEYER LANSKY, aka - FUGITIVE
	Re Bureau airtel to Miami, 3/25/71.  An FD-65 was submitted 3/30/71.
R S	
	The Washington Field Office is requested
captione	the Passport Office, Department of State, regarding d subject.  The following information is set forth regarding
him:	Name MEYER LANSKY
	Race White Date of birth 7/4/02, Grodno, Poland Height 5' 6"
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED	Weight 140 lbs.  Hair Brown-grey  Eyes Brown  Aliases WEYER LAZANSKY,
HERE N IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 3 6 84 BY SPI6SKU 235	MEYER SUCHOWLTANSKY, MORRIS LIEBERMAN
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MM 92-102

LANSKY was charged by indictment returned Miami, Florida, 3/24/71, with violation Title 18, Section 401, Criminal Contempt of Federal Grand Jury, Miami, Florida.

Bench warrant has been issued, \$200,000 bond recommended.

For the additional information of the Bureau and Washington Field Office, LANSKY has been indicted additionally by a Federal Grand Jury in Miami on 3/25/71, along with MORRIS LANSBURGH and SAM COHEN, for income tax violations resulting from alleged skinming from the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas. \$100,000 bond was set on this charge.

LANSKY's last known location was Tel Aviv, Israel
Dan Hotel. He is not expected to return to the Florida
area. He has been granted a three year "stay" by the
Immigration authorities of Israel.

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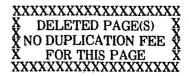
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### Memorandum

Mr. Gale

DATE: April 7, 1971

SUBJECT:

STRIKE FORCE NUMBER EIGHTEEN

At the request of Mr. R. J. Campbell, Supervisor Arthur ware of this Section conferred on the project which has been assigned to this task force, namely, the investigation of Meyer Lansky and the organized crime elements associated/with him.

Campbell stated that this task force consists of himself as attorney-in-charge, assisted by four additional attorneys, two investigators from Internal Revenue Service, and two investigators from Securities and Exchange Commission. strike force will be located in five offices in the Justice Building with Campbell's office being Room 2722. Campbell stated that as the investigation develops, it is possible that some of the attorneys will spend more time in New York, Miami, and other areas.

The task force has been assigned to determine if Meyer Lansky has a criminal organization behind him, its nature and extent, and will be particularly interested in the investment of Lansky and his associates in various business enterprises. Campbell is of the belief that Lansky has available an unlimited amount of funds to invest in such things as real estate, hotels, banks, and other legitimate businesses. These funds are apparently the fruits of "skimming" from casinos and possibly other illegal operations.

He expects to proceed along the lines of identifying Lansky's associates who appeared on a list in Lansky's possession when he was arrested in Miami on a charge of illegal possession of drugs. He will also review all the background information available on Lansky's associates in the Miami area as well as Las Vegas, New York, and elsewhere. He believes that he will ultimately be able to establish violations of Title IX of the 1970 Organized Crime Control Act (investment of illegal funds in legitimate businesses).

NOT RECORDED

202 APR 14 1971

CONTINUED - OVER

1 - Mr. Gale

1 - Mr. Staffeld

1 - Mr. Ware

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Gale Rosen Tavel Walters Sovers Tele. Roc

Memorandum to Mr. Gale Re: Strike Force Number Eighteen

Mr. Campbell said that he was primarily interested in the FBI bringing up to date criminal intelligence investigations on Lansky's associates as an initial step in his operation. He is in the process of preparing a list of such cases and will submit his requests as soon as he has them prepared.

The responsibilities of the Bureau in organized crime matters were reviewed with Campbell who advised that he has been an attorney working on Internal Revenue Service cases for the past five years. He expressed admiration for the Bureau's investigative ability and expressed a desire to handle his assignment in such a manner that he could gain the confidence and cooperation of the FBI.

#### ACTION:

For information.

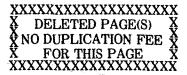




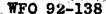


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	(Rev. 5-22-64)	Mr. Tolson Mr. Sullivan Mr. Mohr Mr. Bishop Mr.BrennanCD Mr. Callahan
Transi	PBI  Date: 4/9/71  nit the following in	Mr. Casper Mr. Conrad Mr. Dalbey elt Mr. Gode
Via_	A IRTEL  (Priority)	Mr. Tavel Mr. Walters Mr. Syars Tele. Room
	TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (92-2831)	Miss Holmes Miss Gandy
	FROM: SAC, WFO (92-138) (RUC)	
	MEYER IANSKY, aka FUGITIVE AR (OO:MM)	
	Re your airtel dated 4/1/71.	
	Subject's file in the Passport Office, Departs State was reviewed by SA KENNETH J. HASER on 4/9/71 and found to contain the following additional information submission of WFO airtel of 2/6/70.	d was since
	By letter to the Passport Office dated 3/25/7 EDMUND EAGEN, 1620 Pennsylvania Street, Denver, Colora inquired of the Passport Office as to the question of nationality with respect to the United States and Isra reply of the Passport Office to this individual dated related that the State Department does not have a list	dual el. The 4/5/71 of persons
	who have both United States and Israeli passports. In Office believes that only a person who possesses both alities would be entitled to obtain a passport from eactivity. Since dual nationality is the result of separation.	nation- ch rate,
	sometimes conflicting, laws of different countries, the States recognizes that some United States citizens may nationals of another state.	also be
	The reply continued that a United States citi not violate Federal law solely by obtaining and using passport outside the United States. A person who poss both United States and Israeli nationality would normal	a Toreign esses
	Ooth United States   REC 1892-383/ 2-Miami (92-102) (Enc. 1) (AM)   EST 1 APR 131 1-WFO	
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	54 APR - 197 235,253 Approved:	1 9 g
	Special Agent in Charge	



a United States passport to enter and leave the United States and would also need an Israeli passport to enter and leave Israel, the Passport Office understands.

Mr. EAGEN'S inquiry related to the case of Mrs. GOLDA.
MEIR, Prime Minister of Israel, and also to MEYER LANSKY. The
Passport Office informed EAGEN that LANSKY'S citizenship is a
matter of record in its files but individual passport files are
however, privileged, and their contents may be divulged only in
certain circumstances.

Subject's passport file reflects that he is the bearer of passport A-068670 issued at Miami, Florida, on 2/3/70, validation five years. Under passport regulations, he may use this apassport for lawful travel within the period of its validity; whenever and as often as desired without further notification to the Department of State or other government agency. The Passport Office does not receive information as to whether or when a passport is used for foreign travel.

WFO to cover fugitive cases where restrictive passport action might be desired by the United States Attorney. This is for Miami's assistance in discussing this matter with the Miami Strike Force. If an appropriate representative of the Department of Justice sends a request to the Passport Office for restrictive passport action, the Passport Office will place a stop in its files and send out a world-wide lookout to all Embassies and Consulates to refer to Washington any request by subject for passport facilities, in addition to requesting the Embassy in Tel Aviv to Inform subject that his passport has been revoked. In view of the foregoing, WFO is not placing a stop notice in subject's file at this time.

For Miami's information in connection with restrictive passport action, it is pointed out that the State Department cannot force subject to return to the United States. If his passport is revoked while he is in Israel (or another country), he can remain there as long as the appropriate authorities of the other country allow him to stay. If subject wished to invoke the Israeli law of Return of 1950, he presumably could remain permanently in Israel, provided that the Israeli Ministry of the Interior concurred.







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SAC, Miami (92-102)

April 21, 1971

Director, FBI (92-2831)

MEYER LANSKY ANTI-RACKETEERING

Re Miami airtel 4/5/71 captioned "Criminal Intelligence Program, Miami Division, Monthly Summary of Accomplishments."

For the completion of the information in the Lansky case, furnish details on the indictment of Lansky and others returned 3/25/71 by the Federal grand jury,

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April 26, 1971

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From: Director, FBI

CRIMINAL INFLUENCE IN THE MEYER LANSKY GROUP ANTI-RACKETEERING

Attached for the information of each office to which copies of this airtel are directed are two copies of the Department letter dated 4/14/71, which is self-explanatory.

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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MAY 04 19.

Airtel to Miami Re: Criminal Influence in the Meyer Lansky Group 62

The Miami office is designated as office of origin to coordinate the investigative requests of the task force which will be handled in accordance with our investigative responsibility particularly under the Criminal Intelligence program.

Miami should, through its investigation of the Lansky Case, determine lorth leads to the appropriate office to have a perspens letterhead memorandum prepared







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(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is the foundictment issued against Meyer Lansky, Morris Lansburgh and Sam Cohen, by the Federal Grand Jury.)

#### THE GRAND JURY CHARGES

Commencing prior to May 31, 1960, and continuing to and including the return of this indictment in the Southern District of Florida and elsewhere defendants Flamingo Company, Meyer Lansky, Sam Cohen, Morris Lansburgh, Sam Belkin and Jerry Gordon and their unindicted co-conspirators Rubin Zerlin, Lou Poller, Chester Simms (now deceased) and others to the Grand Jury unknown agreed, combined, confederated and conspired together to commit offenses against the United States; that is:

To travel in and use facilities in interstate and foreign commerce between the Southern District of Florida, Nevada, New York, Switzerland and elsewhere with the intent to establish, promote, manage and carry on and facilitate the establishment promotion, management and carrying on of an unlawful activity and to distribute the proceeds of the operation and sale of said unlawful activity, that is a business enterprise involving gambling in violation of the laws of Nevada, specifically. Nevada Revised Statutes...of the Nevada Gaming Commission and their predecessor statutes and regulations, and thereafter to perform acts of establishment, promotion, management and carrying on and distribution of proceeds from said unlawful activity in violation of Section 1952, Title 18, United States Code.

The means by which this conspiracy was to be accomplished were as follows:

Defendant Meyer Lansky, one of the original conirolling interests in the Flamingo Hotel and Casino, Clark County, Nevada, would cause defendants Flamingo Company, Sam Cohen and Morris Lansburgh to purchase the Flamingo from Hotel Flamingo, Inc., and Albert Parvin in or about May, 1960, and thereafter cause payments totalling \$200,000 to be made from the proceeds of the Flamingo operation during the continuation of the conspiracy through Hotel Flamingo. Inc., and the Albert Parvin Foundation to Meyer Lansky.

Defendants Flamingo Company, Sam Cohen, Morris Lansburgh and other named and unknown co-conspirators would apply for and receive gambling licenses and renewals thereof from the State of Nevada for operation of the Flamingo hotel and casino and would conceal from state authorities the interest and right to receive proceeds from the Flamingo of Meyer Lansky and others.

Defendants Flamingo Company, Morris Lansburgh, Jerry Gordon and Sam Belkin and unindicted co-conspirator Chester Simms and others unknown to the Grand Jury would operate the gambling casino of the Flamingo and conceal from Nevada gambling authorities and the United States Treasury Department the true casino receipts by understating approximately \$2,000,000 or more of casino income yearly.

Defendants Lansburgh and Cohen and unindicted coconspirators Rubin Zerlin and Lou Poller would negotiate the sale of the Flamingo on behalf of the named defendants and conspirators and other unknown co-conspirators and in order to secure a higher price would reveal that approximately \$2,000,000 yearly in unreported proceeds from the Flamingo would be available for distribution after the defendant

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ) . Plaintiff	-
The second secon	
FLAMINGO COMPANY	)
A Nevada Corporation,	)
MEYER LANSKY.	)
SAM COHEN	<b>)</b>
MORRIS LANSBURGH.	<b>)</b>
SAM BELKIN,	<b>)</b>
JERRY GORDON	<b>)</b>
Defendents	)

Lansky had been paid his portion of the sale price in cash.

The named defendants and conspirators and other unknown co-conspirators would cause these unreported proceeds of the Flamingo operation to be distributed in interstate and foreign commerce between the Southern District of Florida and Nevada, New York, Switzerland and elsewhere.

In order to effect the objects of the conspiracy and in futherance thereof the named defendants and unindicted conspirators and unknown co-conspirators committed various overt acts in the Southern District of Florida and elsewhere, including the following:

OVERT ACTS

1. On or about September 7, 1960, Meyer Lansky Executed an agreement requiring Hotel Flamingo, Inc., to pay Lansky \$200,000.

2. At quarterly intervals beginning on or about January 2, 1961, and continuing through 1966, Meyer Lansky received payments in Hollywood, Florida, of \$6,250 per quarter from Flamingo Company proceeds through the Albert Parvin Foundation.

3. Dùring the months of January and February, 1965, in Dade County, Florida, and Clark County, Nevada, Morris Lansburgh, Sam Cohen, Rubin Zerlin and Lou Poller engaged in negotiations with a potential purchaser of the Flamingo hotel and casino.

4. On or about March 29, 1965, Morris Lansburgh sent correspondence from Clark County, Nevada, to the Flamingo New York office concerning unrecorded gambling debts owed to the Flamingo.

5. On or about August 20, 1966, in Clark County, Nevada, Morris Lansburgh received a 1966 Cadillac in payment of an unrecorded gambling debt owed to the Flamingo.

6. On or about December 8, 1966, in Clark County, Nevada, Chester Simms received a 1967 Cadillac automobile in payment of an unrecorded gambling debt owed to the Flamingo.

7. On or about December 30, 1966, and March 31, June 30 and September 8, 1967, Meyer Lansky received payments in Hollywood, Florida, totalling \$50,000 from Flamingo Company proceeds through the Albert Parvin Foundation.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

No. \_\_\_\_

18 U.S.C. § 371: Conspiracy

- 8. At approximately monthly intervals during the period from May, 1960, to September, 1967, the exact dates being to the Grand Jury unknown, Morris Lansburgh, Chester Simms and unknown co-conspirators received large amounts of currency from employees of the Flamingo's New York office.
- 9. On or about June 3, 1966, Jerry Gordon signed and caused to be filed the corporate tax return of the Flamingo Company for the Fiscal year ending March 31, 1966.
- 10. On or about June 13, 1967, Jerry Gordon signed and caused to be filed the corporate tax return of the Flamingo Company for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1967.
- 11. On or about December 2, 1968, in Los Angeles, California, Morris Lansburgh signed and caused to be filed the corporate tax return for the Flamingo Company for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1968.
- 12. On various dates during the continuation of the conspiracy Sam Cohen, Morris Lansburgh, Rubi Zerlin, Lou Poller and unknown co-conspirators caused the deposit of large amounts of currency to the account of Exchange and Investment Bank of Switzerland at Miami National Bank, Miami, Florida, and the transmittal to Switzerland of proceeds of the Flamingo operation.

All in violation of Section 371, Title 18, United States Code.







SAM COHEN



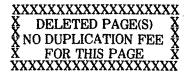






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5/26/71

Director, FBI (92-2831)

HEYER LANSKY, aka PUGITIVE AR 510

In view of subject's possible location in Israel and since he has been issued U. S. Passport A-068670, it is believed appropriate at this time that the U. S. Attorney, Miami, Florida, be contacted to determine if he intends to submit his request to revoke passport of Lansky.

It is noted that Washington Field airtel dated 4/9/71 furnished your office a copy of a guideline to cover fugitive cases wherein restrictive spansport action might be desired by the U.S. Attorney.

On 5/26/71 Murray Stein, Extradition Attorney, U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., advised that to his knowledge the U. S. Attorney in Niami has made no formal request to place restrictions on the passport of Lansky.

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Information has also been received that an article appeared in the newspaper "Haaretz" about seven days ago that Lansky was obtaining a financial interest in the Dan Hotel chain is Israel.

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